終わりの世界録
アンコール
再来の騎士

I

Rh/ Nel Ar,
KyelS ele kiss I-Corn.
The Knight of Reincarnation

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The Knight of Reincarnation


ARCHANGEL PHIA
The strongest Archangel who descended down to attend the Academy to watch over Ren - The Brave Hero's comrade
THE PREVIOUS DEMON-LORD ELISE
The past ruler of the Underworld
She had reincarnated and now has the appearance when she was ten years old
REN
The "Fake Brave Hero" boy who simply has the spitting image of the legendary Brave Hero Elline
DRAGON-PRINCESS KYELSE
The legendary Dragon-Princess who just woke up from her seal and had saved the world in the past with the Brave Hero


"Do you want to come with me?"
Just that one phrase.
Ren wasn't able to comprehend
that one phrase right away.


".....You've got some nerve.
Peeping on my body, are you?"



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The Knight of Reincarnation

Sword Emperor Elline

He halted the “End War” that nearly annihilated the world.

The strongest swordsman in history and the only one in history to be given the title of the “Brave Hero.”

“—We will award the title and honour of becoming the second “Brave Hero” in history to the one that finds the Encore.”

From the Chairman of the World Alliance Conference

Prologue: The Sealed Girl

The land at the end of the world.

There is nothing but wasteland as far as the eyes can see.

There isn't a trace of life and there isn't even a single blade of grass on the dried soil.

Even within the vast land of uninhabited deserts, you might find a few signs of life and a few blades of grass growing, if you looked for them. If you were to search for it, you could even find an oasis.

Then, what about this land?

The sky was covered with dim clouds and the land had no signs of life. Simply a vast wasteland littered with gravel. Except for one person—

Except for a naked girl whose flowing silver hair shone like pearls.

“……”

She was a mysterious girl.

Her silver hair that naturally glowed even within the cloudy weather that turned day into night. And her emerald green eyes that had a deeper, yet clearer colour than any deep ocean.

That also included her gorgeous naked body.

The surface of her skin was clean like that of a new born baby. Her white skin was almost transparent. Her gorgeous body came with slim arms and legs. She also had curves befitting her age.

Her appearance was that of a fifteen or sixteen year-old girl.

However, her body is nothing next to the overwhelmingly prideful and divine impression she exudes.

“Where is this place……?”

The girl used her hand to stop her side hair from being blown away by the wind.

The clouds that covered the sky.

The cold earth that she could feel at her feet. And the endless grey horizon.

The girl looked around her mindlessly, and then—

“……Ah choo!”

—sneezed adorably.

“It’s cold! My legs are freezing, and the wind is cold! More importantly, what’s going on here? Why am I standing here naked? ……No wait, I need to calm myself and try to remember.”



The girl crossed her arm while revealing her naked body within the wasteland.

However, even if she wanted to calm herself and analyze her situation, the wind blowing around her was so noisy and strong, so cold the breeze took away her body's warmth—

“Quiet.”

The wind stopped, immediately and completely.

It stopped with the girl’s single word. The whirlwind that swirled like a bomb blast settled down as though it feared the girl.

On the other hand, the girl showed no sign of being surprised by the sudden change.

She took this as though it were a natural occurrence. She scooped up the back of her hair while behaving as if the violent wind settling down with her single roar was normal. She looked up, trying to recollect her memories.

“……Ah. Oh yeah. I remember now.”

She sighed with her beautiful lips.

“During that battle……hmm, oh yeah, I……was sealed……”

The girl continued to look high up the sky after she muttered those words out.

However—

“If I remember now……the promise with Elline……”

Her adorable face started turning red as if she was becoming excited.

While swinging her slim fist that was being gripped.

At the end.

“That Elline……h……he and his promise to save me from the seal.”

The girl shouted towards the sky as loud as she could.

“I ended up escaping on my own since he hasn’t come to save me even after three-hundred years, that liaaaaaaaaaaar!”

Record.1: The Fake Brave Hero Doesn’t Have Any Comrades

1

There was a title called the “Brave Hero.”

The one who made a greater achievement than the Heroes and the Braves. Due to its exaggerated meaning, it was a title no one held for a long time.

The Sword Emperor Elline.

Until the day a man who had the calibre to receive that title within the whole of history showed up.

Unequally invincible. So powerful that he’s unparalleled. The strongest in all of history. Or he wasn't even human. Even though there were many words to describe the strength of humans, there sure weren't many words that could describe the Sword Emperor Elline’s strength.

If you had to describe him, then it would be that he was “impossible to understand.”

He was undefeated not only against the obvious human foes, but also in hundreds of intense battle against those three superior beings—the Dragons of the Earth,

the Angels of the Heaven, and the Demons of the Underworld. Even after that, he easily stopped the Great War that nearly ended the world.

That happened three-hundred years ago.

It was said that there could be no one, in both the past and the future, who would make a greater achievement than his great achievements.

No, that was what was said in the past.

“Congrats. All of you were chosen and given the chance.”

Union ceremony of the Holy Fiora Journey Academy.

On the day of the entrance ceremony for the Academy for general education, that was what the principal said to the new students, including Ren that had just enrolled, the III-Grade MASTERKnight students.

“In all of history, the title of “Brave Hero” was attained only by the Sword Emperor Elline. Now the chance has come for all of you to attain it. I will anticipate your achievements where all of you will devote yourself to your studies in this Academy, to find comrades who you can trust, and to find the “Encore”.”

—That was two years ago. Back then, I too thought that people expected even a bit from me.

—As a new student that had passed the strict examination.

But—.

“Ren, you were ranked fifth in your class again, huh.”

……Leaving aside my good or bad grades.

……Why did he have to announce my result in such a loud voice?

Ren kept that to himself and received the sheet in silence.

“I won’t tell you to get ranked first in the whole year-level, but I would at least want you to get ranked third in your class.”

The instructor sighed purposely behind him.

“Or was your appearance the only similarity you have with the Brave Hero?”

“……!”

—My appearance has nothing to do with this. I return back to my seat while keeping the words in my throat. There were approximately ten metres to my desk, but during my way—.

“Ren-chan was almost close. He got ranked fifth again, right?”

“But there are thirty-six students per classroom, so being ranked fifth should be quite good, shouldn’t it?”

“What are you saying? He failed a year despite that. Normally, he would have moved up to the II-Grade MASTERKnight and became our senior. He’s a year older than us, you know?”

“Looks like he hasn't changed. For a guy who works so hard.”

“Shhh, Ren will hear you. Speak quietly.”

—I can hear even if all of you were to speak quietly.

—They are whispering on purpose. Except, their voices are high enough for me to hear. The whispers and laughter I could hear from all over the room. In the end, this is what they all say.

—The fake Brave Hero that only looks like the legendary Brave Hero.

Ren E Maxwell.

His light-brown hair that was cut messily and his deep-blue eyes.

His moderately handsome face which has a simple innocent expression.

His height was average among his seventeen year-old peers, though he might have a small build among the MASTERKnight students gathered at the Holy Fiora Journey Academy.

He didn't stand out appearance-wise. But, if you were to be asked to give a single description of his trait—

The Sword Emperor Elline.

His appearance was the only thing which resembled the famous Brave Hero.

After all, students who had seen the statute of Elline located at the main gate would compare its appearance with that of Ren who would be walking near them.

"That's it for last semester's results. Any question?"

None of the thirty-six students raised their hands at the instructor's question.

"Good. As all of you middle-rank students know, this was merely a mock battle. You can say that the promotion test taking place this winter will be your main concern."

The instructor made a loud noise with his shoes.

"It has been two years since all of you enrolled in our Academy. Though there is one person who has been here for three years—"

—The gazes gathered at me from people around me.

……I'm already used to it. It happens all the time, after all.

Ren acted as though he hadn't notice their gaze and looked at the textbook in his hands.

"All of you will finally be able to move onto becoming a high-rank students by passing the promotion test this winter. All of you first started as a beginning-rank

students last year and were middle-rank students this year. Now you will become high-rank students and then highest-rank students, which is the final grade to graduate. Within these four years, high-rank students are the ones who can actually join a "party" and start your actual training. That will indeed be a year you cannot afford to miss in order to go out to the world to seek for the Encore. —Ren!"

"Yes."

"The last item left behind by the Brave Hero **who happens to be your ancestor**. You obviously do remember when the existence of the Encore was revealed to the world, right?"

"During the autumn of the World-Age 798."

He expected that he would be asked a question.

There wasn't a flaw in his answer since he predicted and prepared for it.

"Two-hundred years after the death of Elline at the young age of 26. The research team of the Royal History Laboratory announced the possibility of the existence of the Encore—the record of the war hand-written by Elline himself. Later that year, a massive search team was formed, but they failed to find the Encore. This search-team became the model for the current "parties," and this led to the Era of Great War for the possession of Encore which also involved the three worlds of the Heaven, the Underworld, and the Earth."

"……Hmm."

The instructor didn't know what to say to Ren's answer for a moment.

Ren then used that short time of silence to speak out his mind.

"I would also like to make one correction. This is something I have been saying for quite a while—"

Ren stood up from his chair and looked at the instructor.

“Elline had no descendent. He traveled the world till he died from sickness at the age of 26. Not only did he not have children, he also didn’t have any siblings. I don’t belong to a family which is the direct descendant of Elline. Even if we looked back to our family tree, our ancestor from elven generations back in the past was merely a distant relative of his.”

“It doesn’t change the fact that he was your distant ancestor, right?”

“I’m asking you to please refrain from saying things which would cause a misunderstanding. If you say “your ancestor,” that would sound like I am Elline’s direct descendant.”

There were two misfortune the boy called Ren had.

The first is that he was born as the mirror image of the great Brave Hero.

And the second is that even though it would be considered as a distant relative of Elline, Ren’s mother’s household was actually the distant relative of Elline.

He was indeed a reincarnation of the Brave Hero. People around him expected a lot from him, but the reality was cruel.

—His sword-skills aren't even comparable to the Sword Emperor, and was even inferior to his peers.

—The only similarity he has is his appearance.

That was what his instructor and his classmates said to him. He had been told that even before he enrolled in the Holy Fiora Journey Academy.

The Fake Brave Hero.

That was the insulting title Ren had been given since childhood.

“The true history is that there wasn’t a single individual who could be considered Elline’s descendent. I wasn’t born from a legitimate household that could even be compared to that Brave Hero.”

“__”

The instructor became silent and he simply twitched his eyebrows.

“Are you done? Then sit.”

“……!”

He acted as if nothing happened, so Ren sat on his chair while crunching his fist.

“Time’s up. The class is dismissed for today.”

The instructor took a glance at his golden pocket watch.

“Those who didn’t get a satisfying result for the previous test shouldn’t forget about their training. The actual thing will be a pass or fail. You will repeat a year if you can’t show your results here. Though I’m sure that all of you are aware of that.”

==========

The End War—

Even after three-hundred years, the investigation to find out the entire story of the War hadn’t progressed at all.

The only known fact was that an unknown something entered the world. It wasn’t just the humans. The Dragons, the Angels, and the Demons were also threatened by the ominous invaders. The horror of war spread everywhere including the Earth, the Heaven, and the Underworld.

The ones who stopped the invasion were the Sword Emperor Elline and the legendary Three Great Princesses serving under him.

From the Heaven came Fear, the Angel from the highest class who received the command of the Goddess.

From the Underworld came Elise, the Demon Lord herself who was the master of the world deep under the ground.

From the Earth came Kyelse, the strongest Dragon Princess who was feared by both the Heaven and the Underworld.

—The Angel, the Demon, and the Dragon.

The three superior beings who represented the three world respectively. It was said that such strongest force gathered under the Sword Emperor.

From the history book Ren read, it was written that each of them had an appearance of a human and that all three of them was described as beautiful girls.

"……I'm sure this was written by a man. On top of that, it's completely his taste."

Ren even remembered till this day when he muttered that while he read the history book.

—Though I don't know how much of the history was simply imagination—

Except, the fact about the Three Great Princesses who represented the three world gathered under Elline, and that the four of them including Elline challenged and won after an intensive battle against "something" that was invading the world was a true incident.

That victory itself was the greatest achievement of the Sword Emperor Elline and the reason he was hailed as the Brave Hero.

……However, Elline was no immortal.

It was said that he passed away in one of the rooms in an inn at the young age of 26 without having any children, family, or close friends. His anecdote would

have ended while he had his name remained in the history as an historical person if his life ended in such a way.

The problem arose approximately two-hundred years after his death. In other words, the event that unfolded one-hundred years before the present time.

“The Encore……huh.”

Ren repeated that word vaguely as he walked through the Academy’s corridor.

—*They couldn’t find it.*

Among Elline’s belongings, his belongings such as his sword, his clothing he wore for his journey, and his other belongings were found. Except, there was one thing which was supposed to be there but could never be found.

Elline’s memoir, the “Encore.”

The memoir of the man who traveled the whole Earth, including the unexplored regions and sacred precincts, as well as Heaven and the Underworld.

Its value couldn’t simply be categorised as the relic left behind by the Brave Hero.

The only original texts that recorded the entire history of the End War. The sword-technique manual that was written by the Sword Emperor himself. It was also a world map that recorded many of the ancient ruins and the habitat of the spirits.

For example, you could salvage the rare ANCIENTS“the lost spells” from the ancient ruins, and you could also get a blessing from the powerful spirits within the sanctuary of the spirits. Most of the areas that were considered unexplored regions and sacred precincts since ancient times were also mining areas where you could find rare metals which would become the materials to create powerful weapons.

On top of that, it contained detailed battle records against other beings, such as Angels, Demons, Dragons, and gigantic monsters.

—If the proper individual attains the Encore.

—The value of the information recorded within would lead that individual to seize sovereignty.

“That’s why you would become the Brave Hero if you were to find it, huh……”

He went down the stairs to come out the first floor’s corridor of the building.

“The one who finds the Encore would be given the title of “Brave Hero” and become the second person in history to receive that title.”

It was officially proposed by the World Alliance Conference.

The content of the memoir recorded by Elline would become a great treasure for humanity, and the achievement of the one who finds it would be befitting to be called the Brave Hero of the future generations.

The era when everyone in the world would seek to become the new Brave Hero.

Elline’s memoir itself became acknowledged as an existence that was awaiting the coming of the new Brave Hero, and before anyone knew it, the memoir became the ENCORE“the record of the world”.

“……Though I would need to think about advancing to the next grade first.”

Ren took out the grading report he was given back at the classroom from his pocket and then sighed.

He was ranked “fifth” overall within the class. Amongst them, he received “first” for the written criteria and “eighth” for the practical criteria.

“I haven’t had any troubles with the written criteria since last year, but the practical criteria would be a problem.”

The promotion test would be judged based on the mock battles between the students that were majoring in the MASTERKnight degree. You would become a high-rank student if you were to pass it. Your rank as a MASTERKnight will also be promoted from III-Grade MASTERKnight to II-Grade MASTERKnight.

And the graduation test would also be a promotion test to become an I-Grade MASTERKnight.

You would successfully graduate by passing that test. You could create a new party from scratch or you could take the test to join a well-known party.

Then—

“Ren, are you done with your lectures?”

A gentle voice.

Someone who approached quietly from behind him suddenly hugs him from his back.

“H-Hey!? What are you doing, Senpai!?”

“Fufu. Guess who?”

“……Well, even if you ask me that.”

Her teasing voice.

The two soft things squashed onto his back, and its incredible sensation—.

“Rather, the only one who would do this to me is you, Fear-senpai……”

“Oh my, so you knew it was me?”

She loosens the arms wrapped around him. The blonde highest-grade student comes around in front of him.

“I was worried since you were walking with a gloomy face.”

"……I was?"

"Is there anyone else here besides you?"

The girl chuckled after she said that. Seeing her cute smile—

"I see. I'm sorry for making you worry about me. Was I putting on such an expression?"

Ren couldn't help but also smile to it.

……She's probably the only one.

……Who interacts with me without making a fool out of me.

Fear Nesferia.

A girl whose distinctive features were her deep blue irises and her blonde-hair with silver lines.

She was eighteen years old and one year his senior. Her calm personality and soft smile showed that she was more mature atmosphere than he was.

"But, you know……having you press it……against me like before is……"

"Press it against you? Oh, did I press something against you?"

She bent her body forward while putting on a teasing smile.

In a posture where she forces forward her bosom, which is so dense that it would fall out from her blouse.

The one and only concern Ren had towards her was her overwhelming bosom, which was lifted up with her blouse made from thin cloth. That's because the cloth of her blouse had a shape of two mountains, and it was so large that her buttons might pop in any second.

—The truth is, I'm troubled to keep my eyes away.

Unlike her graceful smile, her body was too stimulating.

……The problem was that she does realise it.

……And she does it to me on purpose as a tease.

The record she made last summer where dozens of pure boys fainted after seeing her in her swimsuit wouldn't be broken in eternity.

"No, let's stop talking about it. By the way, it's rare to see you here, Senpai."

"What do you mean?"

"For you to come down to the first floor of this building during this time. You are always inside the conference room. You are also the vice-president of the council and you always look busy with your council work."

"I came to check my results."



The direction she pointed towards after she said that was the front exit of the building's first floor.

"If you become a highest-grade student, your result would be put out for everyone to see, whether you like it or not."

"Ah, the public execution—"

He stopped his words there.

His senior front of him still had a smile on her face. So did means that—

"Is it okay for me to ask? Senpai, what was your result?"

"Like usual."

"Ranked first again!? It can't be! It's unbelievable to think that you ranked first for all three of "HEALERCurer", "MASTERKnight", and "ARIACaster"!

"I was simply lucky. My body was in good condition during the day of the test."

The senior-girl narrowed her eyes as if she was blushing.

—I really can't beat this person.

Educational written test, ranked first among her grades.

Practical battle test, ranked first among her grades.

—I can understand if she is good at the written test. That's because your daily load of hard work gets reflected onto your result.

—What needs to be mentioned is the practical which is the battle test.

Within the practical test where the boys and girls would be tested together, her sword-play overwhelmed boys who were majoring in the MASTERKnight's degree, and her spell-work overwhelmed students majoring in the ARIACaster's degree.

Even though she was a HEALERCurer that specialises in healing and regeneration.

The almighty genius. It must be the reason why she was called the first genius since the establishment of Holy Fiora Journey Academy.

“Senpai, you sure are amazing……”

Ren honestly spoke out his thought and praised her while scratching the back of his head.

“Senpai, you will finally graduate this winter, so you are also thinking about who you will form a party with after you become a highest-graduate student, right? Senpai, I’m sure you have received offers from famous parties, right?”

“Yes, I have received several invitation. From the principal’s connections.”

“I thought so! That’s amazing!”

Party—that’s the “expeditionary force made up of courageous warriors.”

Their main missions were to travel through different locations of the world to investigate the sacred precincts and ancient ruins as well as searching for the spirits habitats. There were wide-range of tasks, since there were also missions like hunting down dangerous monsters. Discovering the spirits and hunting down monsters would lead to strengthening a specific city’s forces. Investigating ancient ruins would lead to discovering ANCIENTS“the lost spells” and O-PARTS“the lost technologies”. Therefore the cities throughout the world supported and nurtured these parties.

This Holy Fiora Journey Academy was also one of them. It was built as a special institute to train boys and girls who were aiming to create parties. It was a prestigious school that produced many potential individuals.

“Then are you also after the Encore, Senpai?”

“I certainly am. That is the one thing I cannot give up on.”

She nodded while she had the same smile on her face.

“Though I haven’t been thinking about making a party yet.”

“……Eh?”

“This is a good opportunity. Ren, there was something I wanted to talk to you about for a while. The truth is, I will be leaving this Academy soon.”

“You’re leaving the Academy!? Eh, isn’t the graduation in winter!?”

“The results from the previous semester could be used as a quick graduation certificate. I have already submitted my withdrawal application form.”

“……You’re going to withdraw? You must be joking, Senpai.”

Even though Ren didn’t have such intention, his true feelings came out from his mouth.

Withdrawing when the graduation was just ahead wasn’t normal.

You would become an I-Grade HEALERCurer after taking the graduation test and then you would either make your own party or take an entrance test to join the party you desired.

“Why? The graduation test is just right ahead.”

“It’s exactly due to the reason I explained before. Leaving the Academy even a day earlier to find the Encore would definitely be better.”

“……Do you have any comrades? Did you receive an unofficial offer from a famous party?”

“I don’t have any.”

She waved her blonde hair and shook her head.

“It would be just me and a girl who is an old friend of mine. She was finally able to break out of her seal.”

“Seal?”

“Oh, I’m sorry. You can……simply ignore what I just said.”

Fear showed her rare side where she had a bitter smile and waved her hand.

She looked up the ceiling as if she were yearning—

“The truth is, I have a friend in mind for a while who would look for the Encore together with me. She was finally able to come. It would be better to strike while the iron is hot.”

“Your friend…… So it really wasn’t a scout from a famous party then?”

“Yes. There wasn’t a party I wished to join. I certainly had the principal talk to me so long about it, but every one of them didn't satisfy me—”

“H-Hey, Senpai!? Stop!”

Ren used his hand to interrupt his senior’s words.

……That was close.

……Wouldn’t her words just now became a serious issue if someone had heard it?

The two instructors and a group of students that walked behind them. Ren waited till he couldn’t see them and breathed out.

“Hey, that was dangerous Senpai. What you just said.”

“Is it?”

“It’s because……”

The world famous parties that had made great achievements. While the highest-grade student around her were desperately working hard to take the entrance test to join them, she said that those famous parties didn't satisfy her.

“I know your results, Senpai……so I do admire you. I’m not in a position where I could say anything about it and I don’t know much about your friend either. But I do think gaining experience by joining a proper party first is also important. You know, the world outside is dangerous after all.”

The End War was halted by Elline.

However, this world doesn’t just belong to the humans.

The danger level of encountering huge monsters when you enter the ancient ruins and sacred precincts.

The Angels of the Heavens, the Demons of the Underworld, and the Dragons that were the supreme ruler of the Earth, would try to eliminate the humans without mercy. The humans of this world were a weak species.

“Even that Brave Hero formed a party.”

“The Brave Hero?”

“I’m talking about the Sword Emperor Elline.”

“……Oh yes, him.”

Fear made a gesture with her hand as if she just remembered.

“Oh yes, he’s called the Brave Hero now. The humans sure do act conveniently. Back then, the whole world treated him like an pariah swordsman.”

“Eh?”

“Oh no, please ignore that.”

The blonde girl shook her hand in panic which was a rare sight. But her gesture ended there since she looked towards Ren with yearning eyes.

“Let me make one correction. About my case regarding the party. Yes, if I find a party which could even rival the famous Elline’s party, then I may want to join them.”

“? Well, that’s asking for a lot……I mean, you are talking about the legendary party right?”

Elline Sword Emperor Brigade.

The bright and pure-white Angel—the Archangel Fear from the Heaven who was said to have a power that surpassed even the Goddess.

The dark and cloaked Empress—the Demon Lord Elise who was the master of the Underworld.

The girl with a shining silver hair—the strongest Dragon Princess, Kyelse, who was even feared by the Heaven and the Underworld.

The Three Great Princesses who represented the three worlds and Elline who led such party. They stopped the End War with just the four of them. They were indeed the strongest party and was considered the best in history.

“Besides. They do say stories from the past comes with false details. We don’t know just how much of the actual story had been exaggerated.”

There were also a theory that the human MASTERKnight and ARIACaster gradually were replaced with an Angel, an Demon, and an Dragon Princess as the story was retold to people.

That was because it would make the story even more interesting.

“By the way, what do you personally think about it? Do you think the legend of Elline was a fictional story?”

Her eyes that looked right into Ren’s eyes.

The girl called Fear.

From the girl who had the same name as the legendary Angel by coincidence.

“My honest impression is that I hope it would be true.”

Ren nodded while feeling reserved.

“When I heard that story when I was a kid, I honestly thought it was amazing.”

He innocently admired the story.

Even though he was continued to be called the fake Brave Hero, the reason Ren was receiving guidance at Holy Fiora Journey Academy as a MASTERKnight was due to being charmed by the tales of his adventurers.

“It had an interesting story. There was the strongest swordsman where the Archangel, the Demon Lord, and the strongest Dragon Princess traveled with him. Anyone would want to see a party like that if they did really exist. What kind of journey they had while traveling the world, just thinking about it gets me excited.”

“……I see.”

“Fear-senpai?”

“Ren, you are wonderful. You are very honest, very pure, and……”

She had a smile exactly like that of an Angel.

The girl called Fear said that with a tone of a calm adult.

“If it was a human like you—”

The alarming bell.

The one that interrupted her words was the bell that echoed throughout the Academy.

“Ah, it’s already this time? Senpai, don’t you have your usual council work?”

“It’s cancelled for today. I asked everyone since I wanted to use the conference room for my business.”

“For your personal use? So the instructor gave you permission?”

“I was ranked first in my grade for this reason.”

The vice-president of the council who made a naughty smile.

She replied as if this was all in her plan, but what was frightening was that it sounded real when it was coming from her.

“By the way, Ren. This may have been fate that we met here, so would you please do an errand for me?”

“Huh? To where?”

“When you exit the Academy from the main gate, there’s a cake shop if you walk straight through the town. I placed ordered in advance, so what’s left is for you to pick it up. I will be cleaning up the conference room during that time. I wanted to have a bit of a snack-party with my friend.”

“Sure, but I thought you couldn’t eat inside the conference room? I’m sure the instructors would snap if they caught you.”

“You don’t have to worry about that. Oh yes, and—”

Fear shook her hand.

But her eyes looked like she was teasing him and for some reason it also looked seductive.

“How about having a study session together next time as my thanks for having you do my errand? Before I leave the Academy, instead of using the classroom, let's use my room at the girl’s dormitory, okay? Your big sister would teach you many things from the basics—”

“N-No……let’s do that for another occasion!”

—It’s simply studying, so what’s with her teaching me from the basic?

Ren kept his scream inside his mouth and left the scene as if he ran away.

2

Student’s town, Mstier.

The town was structured in a way such that the party raising institute, Holy Fiora Journey Academy, was located at its centre.

There were food and beverage stores as well as clothing stores that were used by students, including Ren. Not only was there a blacksmith factory that manufactures swords and spears, there were also a large bookstore which has all the line-ups such as the world map and monster encyclopaedia.

Near the southern-gate of the town—

“……She ordered too much.”

Ren walked through the main road while carrying the loads of bags filled with snacks with both hands.

“Eighteen puddings, three whole cakes, twenty-five profiteroles, and thirty-seven baked sweets. That Fear-senpai, what kind of big party is she planning to do……?”

When Ren saw these bags back at the shop, he felt uneasy since he didn’t know if he could carry all of them.

“Oh yeah, I heard it was going to rain from the afternoon. If it started raining right now—”

His words were interrupted.

Many screams echoed from far behind him.

"……What!?"

Ren discarded his shopping bag and turned around.

"Make your life and comrade's lives your first priority. Anything else can easily be replaced."

This was the first time Ren thanked those three years worth of guidance of his instructor. If he was even a second too slow at throwing away the shopping bags, he would have been on the ground covered in blood.

A giant green Dragon was flapping its wings.

"A Wyvern!? Why is it in the middle of town!?"

The Dragon-species that was known as the absolute ruler of the Earth.

The one that just grazed Ren's head and landed clearly belonged to that species.

……That was close.

……If I was too slow in turning around, I may have had my head sliced by those claws.

The training he received as a MASTERKnight. No, rather than the training, it was more like his luck. That was how unexpected this assault was.

"Is that thing about five metres in length?"

It depends on each Wyvern, but a mature Wyvern is usually seven metres long.

Even though it would be considered small among the Dragon-species, what needed to be specially noted about it was its flight speed. A Wyvern that was using its maximum velocity would be so fast that even the best sniper would have a hard time shooting it.

"But why is it here? Did it stray away from its herd and wandered in here!?"

If that was the case, its wariness would increase due to having strayed from its herd. There were many cases where its aggressive behaviour became even worse. And it broke through the town walls and entered the town.

A situation like this was rare, and the level of danger was also high.

“Who can even stop this thing……?”

Ren looked up towards the monster in front of him while muttering in astonishment.

—Just how many highest-grade students and instructors would you need to take it down?

—No, the opponent isn’t that simple.

Even if the highest-grade students came to the scene, they were merely students. They merely had experience in fighting small monsters, so the number of students that had experience in fighting a Dragon is close to none. The instructors have already retired from the parties. So you couldn’t think of a plan to defeat it.

The only thing they could do was to buy time and pray for it to leave after it gets bored.

“Even so, buying time would be……”

Even though Ren looked around him, there weren’t any parties that looked reliable.

Even though it was called a student town, a town was still a town. Most of them were civilians. The only people he could see were merchants, families of the civilians, and tourists running away.

“Dammit! Of all times, I’m the only one who had to be here!”

He drew out a dagger that was for self-defense from the attached to his belt.

The length of the blade was that of a knife. It was a weapon you didn't need to go all the way to the weapon factory to buy it since it was purchasable in the business district, even for a civilian.

……This would only seem like a toothpick to that Dragon.

He shouldn't think about winning or losing.

He only had to think about buying time. Until the people around him had evacuated—

"Oh, I have found a delicious looking snack at a place like this."

It was at this time when Ren heard a dignified voice from right beside him.

"I sure am lucky to find a snack which is basically new at a place like this. Maybe this would be a good gift for Fear?"

—The bags of snacks I threw away.

—There is a silver hair girl who is standing right beside me and is staring down at the snacks.

"Hey, those are my snacks……no, that isn't it, hey idiot, hurry and run!"

"Your snack?"

The girl turned around—

"What are you saying? The one who found these first was me. Isn't it first come first serve?"

Emerald green eyes that had a darker colour than the sea, and her long silver hair that sparkled like a pearl.

On top of her fantasy-like colours, her face was also adorable like that of a fairy that would appear in a fairy-tale. Even though she was dressed as an adventurer, her slender body could only be described as being lovely.

But Ren was only fascinated by the girl's appearance for just that slight moment.

"A-Anyway, you need to run! This isn't the time for talking such thing!"

"Run? Why is there a need for me to run?"

The silver hair girl looked up at Ren while feeling unpleasant.

"To begin with, human, you called me an idiot. Who do you think I am……eh……"

That moment, the girl stopped breathing and opened her eyes wide.

Then her small hand started shaking.

"Eh, ……eh, ……El……Elli……"

"Pardon me?"

"Elline, you were alive!"

The girl raised her voice and jumped towards him.

"I wanted to see you! I was looking for you this whole time! Yeah, even if you are a human, you are special. There was no way you would die simply after three-hundred years—"

"I'm saying that I don't understand what you're saying!"

Ren jumped while carrying the girl.

He used his whole body to prevent the girl from touching the ground and then rolled on the ground backwards.

—ROAR!

That instant, the Dragon swung down its tail and obliterated bricks of walls.

“Hurry up and run! You saw it for yourself just now. That Wyvern is too dangerous!”

“Defeat it.”

“……Huh?”

“I’m saying that you have the permission to defeat it. As long as you don’t kill it, you don’t need to hold back against my kind. That guy is an arrogant prick who had been following me this whole time even before I got here. He’s an eyesore so take it down with a single punch to his head.”

“It followed you? What does that mean—”

The meaning behind the words of the girl with the silver hair.

Before Ren could even comprehend the meaning of her words, the sound of the Wyvern stepping on the ground made Ren’s eardrum shiver.

—He’s going to step on me!

The black shadow which was above Ren’s head. The Wyvern came down at them without losing sights of its target. The moment Ren realised that, he pushed away the girl who was clinging onto him.

“You idiot, don’t just stand there, run!”

The shadow of the huge Dragon’s shadow that was coming down at him.

……I need to make it in time!

He brought out his dagger with a faint hope and also jumped to the back—



Then the impact.

Ren was overwhelmed by the merciless impact which was so strong that he couldn't breathe. Ren was sent flying far to the rear.

"……! ……Gah! ……"

He couldn't breathe due to the impact to his back. The reason why his vision turned red must be due to the blood pouring from his forehead. It was the cut he received when the tip of the Dragon's claw grazed him.

……I guess……it's alright since I'm alive, right?

……No……it doesn't make any difference……I guess.

The dagger that was shattered from the core of the blade. His weapon that was violently shattered with ease.

He gripped his weapon where only the handle remained.

"……Bring it, **you worthless Dragon**."

Ren stood up with his body that was covered in sand.

"An……attack……like that……doesn't work on me……even in the slightest."

The words that was just able to come out of his throat.

He used his hand as if he was provoking the Wyvern that had its wing spread wide.

—Fake Brave Hero.

—I'm not a Brave Hero nor am I the strongest knight that can take down a Dragon by myself.

—But I can't give in.

—I need to buy time. Until there are reinforcements from the Academy. More importantly, I need to buy enough time so the silver hair girl in front of me could escape.

"……I been telling you to……run"

His sight was covered in blood, but he could still see the silver hair girl who hadn't ran or hid yet.

"Hurry up……I'm seriously……at my limit……"

"I got it."

That was the time when the girl nodded as if she finally understood something.

"Don't tell me you have a stomach ache because you ate something bad?"

"……Huh?"

"Fine then. I don't feel good in laying hand on my kind, but I'll take care of this."

Right after she said that.

The silver girl approached the Wyvern from the front carelessly for all things.

"……!? H-Hey, stop—"

"There's no way that I, the Dragon Princess Kyelse, will be beaten by this weakling."

Ren could see the girl's face from the side where she was putting on a fearless smile.

Ren listened to the girl's word as if he was dreaming.

……Dragon Princess Kyelse?

……No, wait……it can't be. That name belongs to ***the one from that legendary party****……*

“A Dragon’s child that doesn’t even know who I am. I wonder from which valley it came from.”

The Wyvern which was spreading his wings wide.

The small girl faced the giant monster by herself where she had to tilt her head up to look at it.

“And did he just make a threat right in front of me? I see, so you followed me all the way to this town because I entered your territory. Looks like your pride is the only thing that is remarkable.”

“S-Stop—”

He couldn’t say any more than that. He was losing consciousness. He had his hand full just standing there, and his hand couldn’t reach the girl’s back—

The next moment, Ren would witness a scene he wouldn’t be able to forget for the rest for his life.

“Imbecile.”

The girl leaped.

She didn’t jump. It would be more accurate to say that what she did was flight. An altitude of ten metres high. The girl who reached even higher than the Wyvern with the wings simply said—

“Bow unsightly before me.”

The powerful gravitational field.

The intense gravity which could even compress the paved surface road made a cavity in it instantly.

—Not only didn't she allow the Wyvern to resist, she didn't allow it respond either.

If humans were to activate a spell of the same calibre as hers, they would require longer and more complex spell ceremony as well as mental concentration. But she did it with a few words.

Power of language.

The words that were said come to this world and take a physical form. A human like Ren couldn't even imagine just how powerful and high level the spell was.

"Hmph, cool your head for a bit down there."

The girl who soared up the sky landed splendidly on the ground after doing a spin in mid-air.

The giant crater which was drilled on the ground. After she took a glance at the Wyvern that was unconscious at the deepest part of the crater, she jumped into Ren's arm once again.

"Elline!"

"Again!? ……More importantly, what was that power……?"

The silver hair girl was hugging tightly onto Ren. Even if Ren tried to push her away, she doesn't even budge an inch. Her physical strength was so strong that you couldn't imagine it was coming from such slender body.

"Haha, you. You were alive after all! I thought it was some kind of joke when I heard that you died due to illness five years after I was sealed. Yeah, there was no way you would simply die from sickness—"

"I-I can't breathe…… ……I'll die……you are suffocating me……"

"……H-Hey? What's wrong Elline? You haven't been acting like yourself for a while."

The girl who had a blank face weakens the strength in her arm.

“Cough, cough……s-seriously……”

Ren answered to the girl who was looking up at him while he coughed violently.

“I’m not Elline. Though I do get mistaken as him quite a lot. To begin with, Elline was the Brave Hero from three-hundred years ago. A human can’t live that long.”

“? Elline, did you……forget about me?”

“I didn’t know you to begin with.”

“……It can’t be.”

After the silver hair girl made a gesture where she was in thoughts, she approached Ren. This time, she put her face on his chest. She started sniffing him like a dog.

“!? What are you doing!?”

“See? It’s Elline’s smell. There’s no way I would mistake you.”

“……E-Either way, get away from me!”

He couldn’t help but be embarrassed since a girl that could be considered an absolute beauty hugged him and then started sniffing his smell.

“I’m sorry to say this even though you seem to be confident about it, but I really am a different person.”

“……What!?”

“My name is Ren. Well, if you go up my family tree, Elline would be my ancestor’s distant relative, but he never had any children so I’m not his direct descendant or anything. I’m merely a distant relative of his. A distant descendant.”

“His descendant……you? ……Then Elline is……”

The girl muttered vaguely. Her expression started to get gloomy.

……Why are you looking up at me with such sad eyes?

……I haven’t done anything wrong, but it pains me.

“I’m telling you that Elline……isn’t here anymore.”

The Brave Hero died.

He couldn’t say those words. The best he could say was “he isn’t here.”

“……”

The light disappeared from the emerald-green eyes.

The girl turned around slowly while biting her lips.

“H-Hey!”

Kyelse took a glance at Ren and simply said this.

“……Just his appearance, huh……”

A total stranger who had the appearance of the Brave Hero but not his strength.

……Except.

Even though he received those words, Ren realised that he was so calm that it shocked him.

A total stranger. Fake Brave Hero. He received different kind of taunts when he was compared to the legendary Brave Hero, and there was always mockery within those taunts where people were making a fool out of him.

But he couldn’t sense a slight sign of those emotions in her words.

Elline was no longer here. The sad persuasion where she was telling herself that.

……It's like she said it in such way.

The silver hair girl who defeated the Wyvern with ease. The back of the girl who had such overwhelming power now looked small, weak, and sad.

"H-Hey……umm……"

He wanted to call out to her. But he couldn't find the right words to say to her.

What Ren, who was thinking as such, witnessed was—

The girl who was dragging a giant bag full of snacks.

"Hey!? That's mine! Are you trying to take it away while acting sad!?"

"I defeated the Wyvern on your behalf, right?"

"……Gu."

He didn't know how to reply back to her words.

It was certain that the safety of the residents as well as Ren still being alive was her achievement.

"……Fine. Alright, take that with you."

He was half convinced, but he gave up for the other half. His sighed carried those two emotions. Ren shrugged his shoulder.

.....I can just buy what Fear-senpai asked me to bring with my own money.

……Also, I can't stand to look at her sad eyes.

"I'm sure it would be delicious since those snacks are from the most famous shop around here."

"You sure are reasonable for a human."

The smile the girl made for a slight moment.

There was a faint smile in her sad face.

The girl called Kyelse disappeared in front of Ren.

—That was the beginning.

—The beginning of the story of the boy that was called the fake Brave Hero and the legendary Dragon Princess.

Record.2: The Dragon, the Angel, and the MASTERKnight Student

1

Black clouds covered the sky. The dark clouds that were just above the horizon at noon have now covered the sky above.

The light rain where the raindrops fell bit by bit.

“That was close. It started raining after all.”

It was around the time when Ren returned to the Holy Fiora Journey Academy while carrying a bag of snacks.

……An hour passed since I went for shopping.

……I’m absolutely sure Fear-senpai is waiting for me.

This all started when a Wyvern wandered into town. Luckily the wound Ren received on his forehead was minor. But his back was smashed into a wall and was crying out in intense pain.

Then—

“Yo Ren, what are those snacks for? Are you going to have a party?”

“Don’t tell me it’s a reward you are giving to yourself? A reward for getting ranked fifth within the class huh.”

On the pathway of the Academy building’s first floor. The ones standing there when Ren turned around were three of his classmates.

Ebert who was majoring in MASTERKnight.

And Shen who was majoring in ARIACaster.

“Oh, then I would also like one. I was ranked fourth so give some to me as well. Okay?”

The black hair girl called Mion who was standing between the two boys and was putting her hands forward. She was majoring in HEALERCurer, but she tilted her head when she saw Ren.

“Huh? Hey Ren, what’s with that wound? More importantly, your jacket is all torn.”

She pointed at the traces of blood on his forehead. His wound should have been easily missed since his bangs were covering it, but she must have high awareness due to majoring in HEALERCurer degree.

“Yeah, a lot happened. It isn’t a serious wound.”

I fought a Wyvern. Ren kept the words inside his throat.

There’s no point in telling them.

There were many witnesses who saw the Wyvern, but there’s no guarantee that they would believe me if I tell them that I fought a Wyvern. Though I was utterly defeated by it.

“Hmm? Do you need my healing spell? If it’s now, I can do it if for five of your snacks, so how about it?”

“No, these snacks are……”

“Don’t bother Mion. He probably got miserably defeated after someone challenged him to a duel again.”

Ebert rested his hand on Mion’s shoulder.

He’s the MASTERKnight student who was ranked first within the overall result of the test.

He was a head taller than Ren. The reach of his sword that relied on his huge body and the speed of his slashes. There would be only few high-grade students that could keep up with his sword.

As a MASTERKnight student, he was a student that would be ranked in the top ten of this Academy.

“It happens all the time. Ren losing in a mock-battle that is.”

Shen who was majoring in ARIACaster degree.

After Ebert, he was ranked second for the test. He ranked second for the written test after Ren. He also succeeded in using a high level spell for his practical which shocked even the instructors.

And the HEALERCurer Mion.

“Or were you planning to get on the instructor’s good side by handing that to him so he would give you a pass for the promotion test in winter.”

“……No.”

“What’s wrong?”

“Sorry, but——”

Ren put on a self-mockery smile while he carried the bag full of snacks.

“Leave me alone for today. I’m seriously tired. Rather, there’s no point for you guys to waste your time on me, right? The three of you are an excellent student. I honestly think so.”

“?”

He would either ignore them or respond back at them. Ebert and Shen who thought Ren would react in such way became speechless and were dumbfounded. Using that moment of silence—

“See ya. I have some business I need to take care of.”

Ren climbed up the stairs towards the second floor.

He didn’t care what the three of them who came back into their senses would be talking about. That was because there was something else going through Ren’s mind.

……Even if I tried to put the shock I had at that time into words, my brain goes blank so nothing would come out of my mouth.

……This is the first time I’m having such experience.

“That girl was really amazing……”

The girl whose strong impression was her sparkling silver hair and artistic sweet appearance.

The Dragon-species. The superior beings that were called the supreme rulers of the Earth. She defeated a Wyvern, even if it wasn’t matured, without allowing it to make a single resistance.

I’m sure it was a spell to control the gravitational field, but I have no clue what technique she used.

Spells—

The foundation of it came from the wave-motion of the power used by the high-level beings, the Demons and the Angels. That was what the humans copied it from.

Strictly speaking, only the techniques used by the humans were called “spells.” The powers of the Demons and the Angels would be categorised as “miracles” and “mysteries” that would directly affect natural phenomenon.

It was said that the Demons and the Angels started calling their powers “spells” after that as well, possibly due to finding the word amusing or finding it convenient.

“But was there even a spell like that? Not only that, it seemed like she was holding back as well.....”

If I think about it now, her unflinching attitude in front of a Dragon-species was a sure sign of her confidence.

The world’s best ARIACaster?

If that was the case, the party she was affiliated with must be one of the best in the world.

“If it’s a famous party, then is it the Sword Saint Shion’s “Investigation of the Spirits?” Another party I can think of would be the “Elmekia Dusk” from the supreme metropolitan of Elmekia or the “Canaan Pilgrim, the Boat of the Sacred Teaching” if she is the highest-level of ARIACaster. If someone from such a famous party would come to this town, there would have been rumours about her before her arrival. Rather, someone from such amazing parties wouldn’t want snacks that were on the street……”

The girl with the magical atmosphere.

She didn’t look like a member of any party. That was why Ren presumed she was a civilian and tried to protect her from the Wyvern with his life.

“The beginning of Elline’s adventure was the only one. To journey through the world alone.”

The Sword Emperor who was so strong that he didn’t need to form a party. It stayed that way till the legendary Three Great Princesses gathered under him during the End War. Until then, not a single person showed up who wanted to form a party with him.

Ren thought about the legend—

“But that girl. I’m sure she said a weird thing……”

Ren vaguely muttered as he walked up the stairs.

“Elline, did you……forget about me?”

Brave Hero lookalike.

He couldn’t remember how many times people said that to him in the past seventeen years, but all of those were said knowing that “Ren and the Brave Hero were two different person.”

But that girl was different.

She thought Ren and Elline were the same person.

To be more precise, **she didn’t understand properly that Elline had passed away.** Or else she wouldn’t have said it in such a different way.

On top of that, she spoke as if she really knew the Brave Hero.

……Also, the name she used to introduce herself.

“There’s no way that I, the Dragon Princess Kyelse, will be beaten by this weakling”

Dragon Princess Kyelse.

What you would imagine with that name would be the girl who was one of the members of the Sword Emperor Elline's party. The Princess of the "Heavenly Silver Dragons" which was the oldest Dragon-species. She was so strong that she was thought to be a mutation of her Dragon-species. The strongest monster in history that was feared by the Goddess from the Heaven and the Demon Lord from the Underworld.

The only opponent the Sword Emperor Elline struggled in his battle against. On the other hand, she demonstrated her incredible strength after she joined the party led by Elline where she contributed by using her unmeasurable power to stop the End War.

"It.....can't be."

Her unmeasurable strength.

And her meaningful words she said when she mistook Ren as Elline.

"No, it simply can't be. ……For that girl.....to be the legendary Dragon Princess."

It was said that all of the Three Great Princesses died in battle during the End War.

And the truth was, there wasn't a single person who saw them after the End War. Elline who was the only survivor continued to travel the world and passed away without anyone seeing it.

"If that's the case, maybe she is a member of a famous party after all? Though she looked like she was about my age."

He headed to the fourth floor of the Academy building as he muttered.

"Ah, so no one is around here anymore."

Unlike noon, there were basically no one present at the Academy building of the Holy Firoa Journey Academy during after-school hours.

The beginning-rank students would return home immediately to study their educational subjects.

If you become middle-rank and high-rank students, you would polish your battle skills such as swordsmanship or spells with your club.

The highest-rank student would be busy finding partners whom they could form a party with. Those with high grades would be scouted by famous parties, and there would be times when they would leave the student town in order to take the test.

“Umm, Fear-senpai’s conference room is—”

The council—

The committee that handled all of the Academy’s event throughout the year as well as protecting the public moral and rules of the Academy.

You could only be a member through the recommendation of an instructor. Though the members were always the ones who had good grades at the Academy. You could say it was natural for Fear to be chosen.

“……Ah, these are heavy. I don’t have any strength left in my arm.”

He turned left onto the passage at the fourth floor and walked ahead.

He observed through the window to see the dull weather outside where it was still raining outside. He walked towards the room at the end—

“Kyelse, I see that you are also planning to find the Encore.”

It was around then when Ren heard a familiar voice from the other side of the door.

……Fear-senpai?

“The last item he left behind. Do you happen to know its whereabouts?”

“I do have several clues.”

The one who answered her question had a younger voice compared to Fear. The voice which sounded beautiful like a ringed bell also carried her strong will—

……Is it the girl from earlier!?

The silver hair girl who defeated the Wyvern with a single attack. It was a sound he heard just before so there was no way he would mistake it.

“Nevertheless, what is your thought on whether it really exists in the first place?”

Fear’s calmed voice.

“You, me, and even Elise. None of us that saw Elline taking notes during our journey. It may be a story that the humans made up.”

“That man certainly had time to write the Encore. It was when we were absent.”

The voice that was filled with strength belonged to the silver hair girl.

“The five years void. ……Between the time when the End War ended and Elline’s death. We certainly don’t know what he was doing during that time. All three of us received fatal wounds so we had our hands full trying to maintain our existence.”

“By the way, are we considered dead among the humans?”

“We sure are. It was just a month ago when you broke free from the seal. We didn’t appear here on Earth since both Elise and I were at the Heaven and the Underworld respectively to heal ourselves. I think it was natural for them to think so.”

The one who said it with bitterness was Fear.

“Kyelse, just how much of it do you remember?”

“Me? Well, I remember till the part where you first had your right leg and left shoulder blown off and then received an attack to your torso which was so serious that it could have destroyed your existence. Did you exchange fatal blows with the enemy?”

“Yes. Also, Elise had her whole body disassembled after being dragged into the enemy’s technique. In her case, she chose the right choice to give up in repairing her body and instead choosing the option to use the reincarnation spell.”

“I heard Elise succeeded in reincarnating herself.”

“That’s correct. She was finally able to do it ten years ago. The former Demon Lord would be exactly ten years old this year.”

“Pathetic. And both of you call yourselves the strongest Archangel in Heaven and the Demon Lord of that time respectively huh. I was basically unscratched till I had myself sealed away.”

“You were just too powerful. You are basically invincible with just your breath.”

Fear sighed along with her smile where she had an astonished face.

Ren listened to the conversation of the two from behind the door.

“……It can’t be……”

Ren was about to drop the bag of snacks he was carrying on the floor by accident.

He realised that he could feel chills on his back due to the shock.

……It can’t……be……

……Fear-senpai……is actually that legendary……

Ren could still remember clearly the day when she spoke to him who was isolated from his class.

“What do you personally think about it? Do you think the legend of Elline was a fictional story?”

The Archangel Fear.

In one legend, it is said that she was the strongest Angel in Heaven whose power even surpassed that of the Goddess Resflaze.

However, this explained everything.

Despite being a HEALERCurer, she demonstrated better swordsmanship than the MASTERKnight student boys. Even with her offensive spells, she showed great performance where not only the ARIACaster students, but even the instructor became speechless. If her true identity was the legendary Archangel, then she must have displayed this much result while holding back.

—To begin with, her name Fear also explains it.

—She had no intention of hiding it. She had been revealing her true identity to everyone from the start.

Was it excitement or nervousness?

Ren himself didn’t know the reason for the chills he could feel on his whole body.

“……They weren’t dead. Both the Archangel Fear and Dragon Princess Kyelse……”

The proper meaning of the term reincarnated was still vague, but at this rate, the chances of Elise who was the Demon Lord at that time being alive was high. Obviously the chances of their discussion being misheard was high as well. For example, if other student than myself heard this, they wouldn’t believe it so easily. Their discussions were too hard to believe.

……Except for myself.

……That's because I saw that girl called Kyelse defeating the Wyvern the closest.

The appearance of her back then was so lovely and magical. And also—

"So you followed me all the way to this town because I entered your territory."

If the girl called Kyelse was actually the legendary Dragon Princess, it could explain why the Wyvern assaulted this town.

Kyelse who entered its territory while she was on her way here.

The Wyvern must had been enraged and followed her.

To sum it up——

If both of them were the Archangel Fear and Dragon Princess Kyelse respectively, it would explain their inhuman strength and all of their mysterious words.

"Either way, I am still interested in the so-called Encore."

Fear's voice.

Her voice which would make you imagine the murmuring of the brook, yet it also sounded simple.

"Just what did Elline seek by traveling through the world after the End War? The five years before he passed away from sickness. Maybe there was something he wanted to tell us who were his comrades."

The lonely Sword Emperor. Even after he ended the End War while having the Three Great Princesses from the Heaven, the Underworld, and the Earth serve with him, it was said that he continued to journey even by himself.

Despite the fact that he carried a disease which would kill him. He continued his journey for a reason.

“That’s why I will find the Encore, before the rest of the people in this world.”

The silver hair girl’s voice.

Even though her voice was weak, it was full with purity that would never be tainted.

—The importance for the reason for her to seek for the Encore was on another level.

All the parties in the world as well as the students in this Academy only saw the Encore as a tool which would allow them to attain the title of the “Brave Hero.”

But these girls are different. For them who traveled with the famous Brave Hero, the Encore was genuinely the last thing left by the now deceased Elline, and it was also an important memory of him. And they believe that finding it would be the last parting gift they could do as his former comrades.

The imagine of those two searching for the Encore was simply pure and beautiful.

“……”

Ren had been gripping his hand tightly without realising it.

……So that’s how it was.

……What Fear-senpai said about leaving the Academy before her graduation to find the Encore.

Her former comrade, the Dragon Princess Kyelse, woke up from her seal.

That was why she no longer had to remain at this Academy. She certainly didn’t. That was because the girl called Fear already had a comrade who she would journey with from a long time ago.

“Well, let’s end the serious discussion here.”

The sound of the chair that had been moved.

Fear must had moved the big conference desk and the chair inside the conference room.

“Let’s stop talking while standing. Let’s calm ourselves by sitting down and talking about the current circumstances.”

The sound of the bag of snacks which had been placed on the table followed.

“And that is?”

“I picked it up from the street. I was about to fight over this with a human, but he was a nice fellow who decided to give all of this to me.”

Lies!

You tried to take it without talking about it—Ren kept the words from coming out of his mouth and stayed quiet.

“……Excuse me but isn’t that the snacks I asked Ren to bring?”

“Ren?”

“It isn’t my mistake if there are eighteen puddings, three whole cakes, twenty-five profiterole, and thirty-seven baked sweets inside it. I decided to prepare it for today.”

“The quantity is exact.”

“I knew it. No wonder Ren is late. He might have returned to buy the same snacks again. I need to apologise to him afterwards.”

“……Ren? Who is this person you have been mentioning since earlier?”

After several pauses.

The silver hair girl then released a shocked voice.

“Oh yeah. Putting someone who I don’t even know aside. Listen up Fear! I mentioned it before, but I saw a human who looks exactly like Elline that I mistook him for Elline!”

“That’s why I’m saying that the person you are talking about is Ren.”

Fear then chuckled.

“He’s the same student at this Academy as I am. He’s a seventeen years old middle-rank student who is majoring in MASTERKnight degree.”

“A MASTERKnight huh. Then he’s starting to resemble Elline even more.”

—HEARTBEAT

The words that came out of the two girls without meaning it. *He resembles Elline*——even though it was words Ren had heard many times, he realised that his heart skipped a beat that it hurts so much when the girls said that.

……No. I’m not anything like him.

……I’m not someone so great who could be compared to the Brave Hero.

He hadn’t passed the promotion test and even repeated a year as an III-Grade MASTERKnight.

Even with the Wyvern before, Ren couldn’t even graze him, though it could be said the Wyvern was out of his league.

“That human called Ren had the same smell as Elline……”

The silver hair girl’s voice echoed.

“In cases where humans have resembling appearance and figure, then it could be thought that the human’s biological structure and functions are similar as well.”

“It’s different.”

She denied it by shaking her head to the side—and Ren could easily imagine such scene happening from the other side of the door.

“I’m not talking about a simple features such as his appearance and smell. It was deeper……there was a certain something he resembled him in. Or else I wouldn’t have mistaken him as Elline.”

“Indeed. Well, the truth is, I came down to Earth because I became curious about him.”

“……Is that why you entered the human’s Academy?”

“Yes. I wanted to ‘observe’ Ren from up-close. I enrolled in this Academy as one-year his senior, but Ren repeated a year and failed to become a high-rank student and remained as a middle-rank student. I’m a highest-rank student so I’m currently two years his senior.”

“He repeated a year?”

Kyelse responded with a puzzled tone.

“He was marked with a stamp of lacking in strength as a MASTERKnight student. Ren enrolled as a student who wanted to major in MASTERKnight degree, but he failed in his promotion test. There are obviously several students who fails the test every year, but it’s still rare if you see it with a broad perspective.”

“I see. That’s why he panicked so much in front of the Wyvern's strength huh.”

“So then, what is your opinion after seeing Ren up-close?”

“……I don’t know. Except, it felt as if I was thrown into reality. It felt like I woke up from a dream after knowing that Elline is no longer here.”

It was clearly the legendary Dragon Princess’ true feeling that was expressed with a weak voice.

“Was it because Ren is weak?”

“No, it’s because Elline was too strong. That man was truly an embodiment of absolute strength. I learned that a human like him won’t appear ever again in this world. That’s how I felt.”

“……I’m sure Ren has potential. At least from my perspective.”

Fear continued with a calm and gentle tone.

“I mentioned it before, but my reason for descending down to Earth was simple. Since the damage I received in **that battle** had been healed for the time being, I noticed there was a human down on Earth who resembled Elline. So I became interested in him. And I decided to check up on him.”

“……The possibility for him being Elline’s reincarnation?”

“No. Strictly speaking, ‘reincarnation’ is a hidden technique that only Demons are capable of using. Except, there was a chance for Ren to unleash a trait similar to Elline if we talk in terms of heredity. In other words, inheriting Elline’s unpredictable strength. ……But that wasn’t the case. The power didn't appearing in Ren the way I hypothesised and Ren’s resemblance to Elline was really a coincidence.”

“I thought so. If he really did inherit Elline’s power, he wouldn’t struggle against a Wyvern.”

“But—”

After she took a deep breath.

After she ended her words as if there was more to it, Fear’s voice echoed once again.

“I actually could have returned to the Heaven after my observation of him ended. Except, ……this was something which I also didn’t expect, but I thought it won’t be a bad idea to stay in this Academy a bit longer.”

“For what reason?”

“I wanted to continue watching Ren a bit longer. Maybe I should say that I wanted to cheer him on. If I didn’t find out about you breaking from the seal, I would have stayed with him till my graduation.”

“Cheer him on? For what reason?”

“His earnest desire to improve himself more than anyone.”

There was an emotion of affection within the voice of the girl who gave that answer.

“He and Elline are different. I’m sure Ren is the one who understands that the most. His talent in using sword is poor and he wasn’t really born with a blessed body. But his heart doesn’t break from the laughter of those around him and I have seen him working harder than anyone every day. As an Angel, the ‘virtues’ of such human makes us want to cheer them on.”

“Seriously. Someone who happens to be an Archangel is acting like a human?”

“There are many Angels who takes a liking to humans, and since I’m one of them, it isn’t difficult living on Earth you know? Instead I can’t help but enjoy it. Just how far the boy who has been called the fake Brave Hero would go? I started to wish to watch over him.”

“……!”

The bag of snacks that gets dropped from Ren’s arms.

Ren discarded the instinct to pick them up and instead ran through the passage in a daze.

—Due to the impulse.

—Even before I can become aware of it, my body couldn’t stop moving.

“What am I doing!?”

He couldn’t speak.

It felt like I had a lot of cold water splashed on my pattern of thoughts that had heated up.

……Yeah, it’s exactly what Fear-senpai said.

……It’s not the time for me to stay here and listen to their discussion. There’s so much things I need to do.

I’m no Brave Hero. What I share in common is simply my appearance. I did get looked down by my seniors and juniors, but I still continued to do my best.

That’s because I also wanted to journey into the outside world.

One day, I want to look at the horizon of this world that the famous Elline and the legendary Three Great Princesses once arrived at.

“If that’s the case, it’s obvious what I need to do!”

What I should be doing isn’t just standing here. In order to catch up to my peers even a day earlier, I must continue working hard.

That’s why the place I was heading toward is—

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The footsteps that was getting further away.

“……So, who was the one who had been there since earlier? The one who was eavesdropping on us.”

She held a fork in her hand and a single whole cake was in front of her. The silver hair Dragon Princess—Kyelse, looked towards the door which was connected to the pathway.

There was one human who was listening to them.

She sensed his presence but she decided to ignore him since she thought she didn't need to go to the extent to chase him away.

There wouldn't be any human who would believe their story since it would be an astounding story to them. Kyelse also wouldn't be troubled by it even if someone were to cause a stir. Likewise for Fear who was sitting on the sofa opposite to Kyelse. Fear was putting on her usual smile while pouring tea inside the cups.

"Does it bother you?"

Fear said it while handing the tea-cup with steam arising to Kyelse.

"This is rare. For you to be curious about a human's movement."

"Are you okay with it as well? As far as it goes, you are living here while acting like a human."

"I'm okay with it. You woke up from the seal, and you have also decided to find the Encore with me. I have already sent the application to withdraw from the Academy."

"Well, I don't mind if you are okay with it."

Kyelse didn't move while she held a fork in her hand and while having the cake in front of her.

—The uncomfortable feeling.

Kyelse became curious right at the time when the presence of someone behind the door was getting further away.

The one who was there should have left right away if he wasn't interested in their discussion. Listening to their discussion till here means that he was interested about their discussion.

Then why did he leave without listening till the end?

He was eavesdropping on their discussion, but he ran with all his might while he forgot to get rid of the sound of his footsteps. He basically ran as if he was asking to be found out by them.

……And the smell of this human?

“Fear.”

“Very well. If you are really curious, Kyelse, let’s have a look.”

The blonde Archangel walked to the door of the conference room.

Kyelse followed right after her. She peeked outside from the door Fear opened—

“……Isn’t that the guy from earlier?”

Exactly at that time, she saw a boy with light-brown hair climbing down the stairs at the corner of the passage. She only saw him for an instant, but there was no mistake it was him.

“It was Ren after all. Look, these snacks. He bought them again. I feel bad for having him buy them again.”

Fear picked up the bag of snacks that had been left at the pathway.

“……”

“Kyelse? What’s wrong? Why are you so quiet?”

“I’ve been bothered about it since earlier.”

In the pathway, there wasn’t a single person.

Kyelse continued while pointing towards the direction the boy disappeared to.

“You said that the guy earlier was the fake Brave Hero. What’s the meaning of that?”

“It’s basically Ren’s nickname at this Academy. Though it isn’t used in a good way.”

Fear sighed along with her breath.

“Ren is famous for being identical to the EllineBrave Hero. Did you see the bronze statue of Elline which is placed at the main-gate of this Academy?”

“I did. There was a similar bronze statue at the gate of this town.”

“Yes. Since Ren resembles him so much, it’s common for people who walk past him to turn around and look at him. The portrait of Elline is printed on the humans’ history textbook.”

“And?”

“He always gets compared to the Brave Hero because of that. His strength as a MASTERKnight is enough to be awarded with a passing mark, and his educational knowledge is splendid. Except, the person who he is getting compared to is extraordinary so he gets rated low with injustice.”

“……To be compared to an extraordinary great man, huh.”

Kyelse herself also mistook Ren for the Brave Hero, and it was also true that she doubted Ren’s strength.

But that was because she mistook him as the real Elline. She wouldn’t have thought so even in the slightest if she knew they were different people.

The individual difference.

It definitely exists even among Angels, Dragons, and Demons. There certainly were different roles for each individual depending on what they were good at and what they were bad at. But you wouldn’t get shunned simply for that reason.

“You say that he’s being called the fake Brave Hero, but does Ren have a problem where people would have to insult him as such?”

“No.”

Fear’s voice was clear and there wasn’t even a slight hesitation in her words.

“Ren works hard. He certainly was ranked basically the lowest among the MASTERKnight students back when he just enrolled into this Academy for his stamina and swordsmanship. He could have climbed up to be ranked between the mid-tier and top-tier in his class in a matter of a year.”

“Yet he still couldn’t advance?”

“The promotion test would be a mock-battle between students that majors in the MASTERKnight degree. And his opponent ended up being the MASTERKnight student who was the strongest in his year-level. As a result, Ren lost without being able to do anything last year which led him to failing it.”

You couldn’t use the excuse that your opponent was out of your league nor was there such thing like a retest.

When you form a party to travel the world, you would need to be prepared that you might have to face gigantic monsters, Dragons, and Demons. It wasn’t a world where you could survive simply because you had to face a strong opponent. The failing procedure of the promotion test was organised to have you experience such cruel reality.

“However, Ren challenged the same opponent again this summer. It was simply an unofficial duel, but he wanted to do it to see the result of his hard work.”

“And the result?”

“Ren’s consecutive defeat. However, this time he was defeated in a battle where you had to win three times first and Ren managed to win twice before losing. I was there to watch that match back then and Ren showed a rare sight of being happy about it. He had been practicing his swordsmanship the whole time. He remained at the training area till late at night when everyone had went to sleep.”

“……”

“But the opinions of those around him still isn’t that positive. The result of his match was defeat so he wasn’t able to get rid of the disgraceful title of fake Brave Hero. As a result, he’s still isolated in his class.”

“……Then won’t he have a hard time finding the people who he wants to form a party with?”

“Exactly. He probably won’t find one. At least in this Academy, that will be quite hard. Since he’s still an III-Grade MASTERKnight, you won’t be able to find any parties that will welcome him into their midst. ……Speaking of which, this sure isn’t the topic we should be discussing about at the corridor. Let’s return to the conference room.”

Fear turned back after picking up the bag of snacks with ease. Kyelse also followed her who entered the room which had the door still opened.

“Are you thinking?”

“I remembered when I first met Elline.”

Kyelse looked up the ceiling while she was leaning against the door.

……He was the only one.

……The only one who confronted me when not just humans, but even Angels and Demons feared me.

Since the day she was born, Kyelse surpassed all kinds of Dragons and became the strongest.

She was so strong that her fellow Dragon-species feared her and thought she was a mutation. She was feared that she might break the power-balance between the three sides of Angels, Demons, and Dragons. Even the Goddess from the Heaven and the Demon Lord of the Underworld regarded her as a threat.

Even though she was regarded as a threat, Kyelse didn’t care about it.

She didn’t care. She realised that even the forces of the Heaven and the Underworld wouldn’t be a threat to her.

For the Dragon Princess—

The only one who understood her who was isolated from others due to being too powerful wasn’t her fellow Dragons nor the Angels and Demons that were also called the superior beings.

“Elline. Elline E Maxwell.”

The first person she ever met who was her equal.

The one and the only person who talked to her like a friend instead of being afraid of her was a human swordsman who she thought were beings she could simply ignore.

“The population of humans is high in exchange for their fragile body. I also know that there are a variety of individuals.”

Her small fist.

Kyelse stared at her hand that she made it appear like a human’s and then chuckled.

“Fear, I don’t know much about humans as you do, but it’s natural for humans to be weak from birth. Elline was just an exception and Ren’s strength is closer to that of actual humans, right?”

“It sure is. That is one truth which hasn’t changed while you were sealed for three-hundred years. And I mentioned it before, but Ren is clearly getting stronger. It’s just that those around him aren’t trying to acknowledge it.”

The silver hair girl closed her lips and became silent.

After a while, the princess of the Dragons stared at Fear's face with an angry expression.

"……So they don't want to acknowledge him?"

"That may be the part of it. Rejecting others would lead to having yourself rated relatively higher in comparison. In that regard, Ren would be a good target, due to his appearance and his blood that makes him a distant relative of the Brave Hero."

"And this is happening even now?"

"Yes. There are numerous students every year who are sent out from this Academy to join worldwide famous parties. Those who are related to royal bloodlines and has excellent students as their friends already have their own faction within this Academy which is full of such excellent students. So the more powerful such groups are, the more they tend to be harsh to Ren. You could even see how bad he was treated when he just enrolled when he received unfair reputations and false rumours. To be honest, I'm amazed Ren endured it for the past three years."

"So that's why there aren't those who would form a party with him……"

The mountains of snacks placed on the table in front of her.

Kyelse chucked one of the baked sweets inside her mouth and then puts on a disgusted expression.

……It's so sweet inside my mouth.

……But why is such bitter emotion piling inside me?

The girl who was alone because she was feared as the strongest Dragon.

And there was another individual here, a boy who was isolated from others by being called the fake Brave Hero due to having a strong resemblance to the great Brave Hero.

……I……

……Am I seeing my past self……in Ren's present……?

"Yes. That's why—"

Fear touched the glass window with her finger. While she stared at the scenery where there were many raindrops falling, this was what the blonde girl said with a calm voice.

"We would need someone who would accept Ren from the bottom from their heart."

"……Accept him?"

"Yes. Kyelse, this is what you told me. That the Wyvern entered the town and that Ren protected you back then."

"And?"

"At that time, do you think he protected you while thinking he could defeat it?"

"……Bring it, ***you worthless Dragon****."*

At first, Kyelse completely mistook Ren as Elline.

That was why she didn't doubt those words Ren said back then. She didn't think that man who had great and unrivaled strength would receive any damage from the Wyvern's attack.

But now she realised it was her mistake.

—The desperate threat.

—It was indeed a provocation which the weak would say to the strong when they prepare for death.

“You are telling me he was protecting me while preparing for death……!?”

“Humans are weak beings. It’s not like they have a strong life force, and their life-span is roughly about dozens of years long. Even that Elline died with sickness without reaching the age of thirty. For a weak human to confront the Wyvern, just imagine how much resolution he had back then.”

“……”

“Kyelse, don’t you feel like you want to put yourself on the line for this fated meeting we had once again?”

“Fated meeting?”

“In the past, you were alone due to being too powerful, but later you became a member of the legendary party which was led by a human who would later be known as the Brave Hero.”

The blonde girl stared at the pouring rain and said it while showing her back.

“For that reason, this will be your turn. Don’t you think it should be your turn to lead the lonely fake Brave Hero?”

“! Are you suggesting me to form a party with Ren……?”

The Dragon Princess who was once saved by the Brave Hero would this time create a party and lead the fake Brave Hero.

The time to invite him on the journey to find the Encore.

“Fear, was the reason why you chose this place for our long reunion was to……”

“Though the Wyvern assaulting Ren wasn’t part of my plan.”

She chuckled and showed a beautiful smile.

“Kyelse, there’s something I want to show you. What the boy called Ren looks like—”

And then.

The blonde Archangel pointed towards the other side of the pouring rain.

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Heavy rain.

The sky was covered in black storm clouds, and the wind that it blew was also cold. The poured down to the Earth together with the many raindrops.

While he was getting soaked by freezing cold water—

“One more time……”

Ren simply continued to swing his thin sword.

He couldn’t feel the tip of his fingers anymore. Due to the coldness of the heavy rain and the weight of the sword he had been gripping on to, his fingers had turned numb and cold.

It wasn’t the result of talent or training. It was something possible only through his pure tenacity.

—The training area at night.

There wasn’t a roof that would block the wind and the rain, nor was there any lights to aid his sight.

This was done assuming the time when you would travel to the world as a party. There might be a time when you would encounter a monster on the street at night, and there might also be a situation where you would get assaulted by a Dragon in the rain. The practice area that was made to prepare for the worst situation.

……However, that simply meant that you could “also do those sorts of training.”

If it started raining, it would be important to go home and build your knowledge by reading textbooks.

You could also say that a battle training under the rain or snow were done quite commonly under the training supervised by the instructors. So it wasn't necessary to do your own training under such situation.

Pouring rain.

It was late at night when everyone should have been asleep. He continued to swing his sword without taking any break, so he was soaked wet by the cold water. It was more than tenacity; you could even call it madness.

"Even so!"

Many rain drops were pouring.

He swung his sword while staring at one drop of rain.

"I won't be able to catch up to anyone if I don't do this!"

Flash. The tip of the sword he had just swung takes down the raindrop.

"……Haa.....h……a.....h……"

He stabbed the sword into the ground.

He bended his body in a right-angle shape due to the total exhaustion.

……I, I cannot become anyone other than myself.

……What's wrong with being weak right now? I simply have to get stronger for that loss.

"I……"

I didn't want to die while continued to be called the fake Brave Hero.

But I also don't have any desire to become the Brave Hero just in order to make everyone recognise me.

"I simply admired it. A simple reason like that should be alright. I'm a man after all……"

The legend of Elline—

How I admired his story when I was told about it as a kid.

I also want to find comrades whom I can trust and travel around the world with as I desire.

I want to see the horizon of the new world I have yet to see. I enrolled in the Holy Fiora Journey Academy which was far away from home by begging my parents because I had such dreams.

"The three years were painful. But I'm glad I came here."

He stood up by using the sword to support himself. Ren had a slight smile on his expression.

"So the legend was real……"

Elline Sword Emperor Brigade. The Brave Hero and the Three Great Princesses who supported him.

……*So they really did exist.*

Ren himself also had some suspicions as to whether the legend from three-hundred years ago was real. That the legend might be an anecdote from the past that had been exaggerated. That the legend was a story made due to the strong desire of wanting to become the Brave Hero.

But he certainly saw it.

Dragon Princess Kyelse's overwhelmingly strong and lovely action.

“Amazing. Truly amazing is the only word I can say.”

Will I reach that height if I continue to work hard?

Will I be able to form a party with a comrade like her if I continue to work hard?

Then—

Suddenly there was light lit on Ren’s shoulder which was wet by the rain.

“You……”

The small spirit of fire. It had the size of a firefly. It appeared like a luminous body which simply gave faint red light, but it was no doubt a type of spirit.

[————————]

The nameless small spirit of fire gave a strong light for an instant.

That moment, the area around Ren’s shoulder which was supposed to be wet gets enveloped by a warm wind.

“Are you……worried about me?”

The luminous body which lightly floated in the air.

Spirits were rare species which was full of mysteries.

They usually hid themselves away from humans at the sacred precincts, but this spirit had been attached to Ren since some time ago. For Ren, it felt like a kitten he found by chance was being emotionally attached to him.

……Maybe this guy is also alone?

……As if he could answer even if I asked.

It appeared without any warning and starts to float around Ren where it would eventually disappear.

“Alright, I get it. Thanks, but I’m alright. You would catch a cold if you stay here under such cold rain.”

He didn’t even know if his words got through to the spirit.

But soon as Ren said that, the luminous body stopped flashing. It froze in mid-air and then disappeared with the night sky after it released a glow. After he sent the spirit off,

“……The one who catches a cold would be enough with just me.”

Ren pulled the sword from the ground while he had a faint smile on his face.

I can still move. I can’t feel my hands anymore but I have enough strength to hold my sword.

“One more time!”

The empty space where there was nothing ahead was Ren’s sparring partner. Simply by using the pouring rain that made some trail as his opponent, Ren just kept on swinging his sword. He pierced with his sword. He swung with his sword. Just how long had Ren been doing this?

“…….A……”

Ren’s knee lost its balance so he knelt on the spot.

He tried to put his hand on the ground.

But he didn’t have the energy to even do that. So Ren fell to the ground on his head.

“Ha, haha……”

As he felt the cold mud on him, what came out from his mouth was dry laughter directed to himself.

……I sure look pathetic.

……It couldn't be helped if I continue to get called the fake Brave Hero no matter what at this rate.

He used all of the strength in his body to get on his knee.

But his body couldn't move more than that. He couldn't stand or hold the sword, so he simply got wet by the rain in a daze—

"Stand up."

It was that time when he heard the girl's voice.

"!?"

She stood at a distance where he could reach out to her.

Ren forgot to breathe when he saw the girl's beautiful appearance. He simply opened his eyes wide.

……It can't be.

……Why……is this girl in front of me?

The girl who had her shining silver hair flowing.

Her mysterious emerald-green eyes. Her eyes which gave a noble and lovely impression despite her having a small body.

"Ren."

"! Why do you know my name?"

"I heard it from Fear. I heard that you trained hard every night over here."

The Dragon Princess Kyelse.

One of the members of the party which was led by Elline and also the strongest Dragon on Earth. Why was a girl like here—

"……I'm sorry for what happened at noon."

She bowed her head.

Even though she wasn't used to doing this, this was clearly a proof of her showing her apology.

"You looked too much like Elline……so I was confused. Forgive me. You certainly look like him appearance-wise, but I tried my best to understand that you and Elline are different persons."

She bent her body casually. She didn't even care if her hand was covered in mud. What she picked up was the sword Ren dropped on the ground.

"Do you want to come with me?"

Just that one phrase.

Ren wasn't able to comprehend that one phrase right away.

"……Eh? H-Hey……what do you mean?"

The girl who looked straight at him.

She looked at him with her jade-coloured eyes which had strong will in them——

"You are you. I won't tell you to be strong from the beginning like Elline. However, if you desire it, then I can teach you all of the Sword Emperor's sword techniques I can remember."

"H-Hold on a sec! What—"

"I won't tell you to be strong from the beginning, nor will I tell you to suddenly become strong. But don't forget the strong spirit you showed when you protected

me and challenged the Wyvern. That is the only requirement I ask from you to form a party with me."

Party.

Hearing that word, Ren finally realised what the girl was trying to say.

"……Me and you? But isn't it decided that you are……going to search for the Encore together with Fear-senpai—?"

"Yeah. That's why you have to decide. Will you stay in this Academy or will you travel the world with me?"

Under the pouring rain, the girl stood slowly.

Just one word—

"How long are you planning to make me wait?"

The girl showed a fearless smile to Ren who was kneeling on the ground.

"!"

"Or do you need my help in standing up?"

The question from the Dragon Princess Kyelse.

To her words which could be taken as provocation, the answer the boy who was called the fake Brave Hero was simple.

"……No."

"Hmm?"

"I'm……telling to……shut up……and watch……"

He put strength in his leg which was shaking. He bit down hard enough to crack his molars. He put so much strength into his fist that his nail dug into his skin. Ren stood up slowly.

—In desperation.

—Instead of his stamina which had already ran out, what moved Ren was exaltation which heated up his whole body.

It was the first time.

That anyone spoke to someone like me.

If this came from the students around me, I would have thought that they were joking. But the eyes of the silver hair girl had a light filled with strong will that didn't make me think that she was joking.

"……I will go."

Even though he was breathing heavily, Ren certainly did say that.

"I will also go to the world outside together with you. ……Though it won't sound cool while I'm covered in mud like this, I had always dreamed about it. I want to travel and see the world outside till the end."

"Seriously. Your appearance sure is unsightly."

The girl front of him made a deep sigh.

However, in her eyes, there was charm that she didn't show before.

"……But being covered in mud really suits you. Here."

The sword covered in mud. The girl handed the sword to Ren.

Seeing her action up-close, Ren noticed the subtle change in the girl.

"……Umm, are you cold? Your hand is shaking."

Kyelse's hand which was holding onto the sword was shaking.

When Ren looked carefully, he realised that the face of the girl looking up to him was a bit red.

“Or did you catch a cold—”

“I-Idiot! It’s your fault! ……It’s because you look……too much like Elline……”

“What was that?”

“I-I’m telling you to……take the sword right now!”

The Dragon Princess who was trying so hard to hand the sword.

She looked so innocent like a girl who was handing out a love-letter to her first love—

“Y-You should be honoured! I, who am the strongest Dragon in history as well as the princess of the Dragons…… This is my first time, you know? For me to scout a human to the party. This is my first time!”

“Well, I don’t know how to react even if you emphasise that it was your first time……”

“~~~~~~I-It’s your fault for making me do something I’m not used to. Anyway! I will train you to the fullest since you are going to form a party with me. You should be prepared! Or else, you—”

Right before Kyelse was about to end her sentence.

“Oh my, I will be troubled if you forget about me.”

“……Fear-senpai?”

The blonde girl who had her umbrella up in elegance.

As Ren watched her, she walked slowly to him while putting up a smile.

“Hey, Ren?”

The umbrella she had put up gets thrown up high in the air.

Then.

“**How do you do?**”

The golden light that was released. A bright light so strong it could burn your eyes appeared within the training area. It pierced through the dark clouds high up in the air and make the sky bright.

“Let me reintroduce myself. Ren, this is my first time meeting you.”

The Archangel that would represent the Heaven—

An Angel was standing there who had a golden hair and a pair of white wings.

“My name is Fear, the Archangel. My rank in Heaven is second after the Goddess Resflaze. I may be incompetent, but I’m here because I would like to join your party.”



"……Eh……a…..Umm."

"To be honest, I was planning to ask this from the beginning, you know?"

The Archangel who had on a smile as if she showed her greatest revelation.

"It all depended on you. I was planning to reveal my identity to only you before I leave the Academy to find out whether or not you would come with me. I wanted to find out about your thought."

"……"

……This isn't a dream, right?

He was speechless.

The Archangel and the princess of the Dragons he had been taught about since he was young.

Two of the girls who were the members of the legendary Elline Sword Emperor Brigade were standing in front of Ren, and they were trying to lead him to the world outside.

"Oh, and I would prefer to be called 'Fear-senpai' like you have been calling me till now. I have become used to being called by the name people called me at the Academy, so it would feel like we are close to each other."

The Archangel who was smiling and was flapping her large wings that were glowing with bright.

On the other hand, Kyelse said this with a fed up face.

"Hmph, you attention seeker. It's not my problem if humans saw your appearance with such high colours."

"It's fine. We are going to leave the Academy right away after all. Right, Ren?"

"……Eh?"

He couldn’t help but drop his jaw open.

The one staring at him was Kyelse.

“Haven’t you understood our discussion yet? Tomorrow. We will be leaving by tomorrow morning to find the Encore.”

“……Hold on a sec!? Tomorrow!? No matter how I think about it, that’s too quick!”

“Remember how I told you that I have submitted my withdrawal application form? Ren, please fill in your withdrawal form by tonight. They do say that you have to strike while the iron is hot.”

Ren had his left arm embraced by the Archangel to her breast.

“Wait, I need to do things like preparing for the journey, and I would also need to be mentally prepared and such—”

“Let’s go. If we are not quick, other parties might find the Encore first.”

Ren had his right arm embraced by the Dragon Princess without any warning.

“I sure am looking forward to it. It has been a while since I have searched throughout the world.”

Fear who was smiling while putting her developed breasts against him.

Kyelse on the other hand stared at the Angel with an astonished face.

“You foolish erotic Angel, let go of his hand already. I’m the one who is going to train Ren.”

“Eh? Then Kyelse will be in charge of him at noon and I will be in charge of him at night.”

“No. I’m sure what you are trying to do is.....”

“Enough, so will the two of you let go of my hands noooooow—!”

He had both his arms grabbed by the legendary Dragon Princess and the Archangel.

The fake Brave Hero boy had himself dragged from the spot.

Record.3: The Condition of the former Demon Lord

1

Student’s town, Mstier.

What awaited them once they took a step outside the town was green plain that spread before their vision. The footpath made from pebbles continued straight ahead where it would eventually connect to a large town far away.

At the peaceful path as such,

“……It felt like an instant.”

Ren turned around to look at the path he walked from as the morning sunlight lit over him.

—Looks like I’m going to be away from Holy Fiora Journey Academy for a while.

—I should have at least written a letter to my family back at home. I haven’t even seen my little sister lately.

When he saw the student town as he turned around, it was already so small that it looked like a small dot. He was attached to it since he had been living there for three years. So there was a side of him where he was feeling lonely.

Except, more than that, he was so nervous that his heart started beating faster as he walked.

He felt as if he didn't have time to feel sad about it due his nervousness.

After all—

"Hmm? What's wrong?"

The silver hair girl looked up towards him as she licked the candy.

The Dragon Princess Kyelse. She was the strongest monster in history that the Heaven and the Underworld couldn't even touch, but not until the Sword Emperor Elline appeared three-hundred years ago. She also happened to be a Princess of the "Heavenly Silver Dragon" which was the oldest Dragon-specie.

Someone like her was holding onto his right hand, and also—

"I'm sure you have some regrets at leaving the Academy. Though that's how a journey is supposed to be. There is also a new meeting after a parting."

The one who was walking on the left-hand side of Ren was a tall, beautiful girl with bright blonde hair.

Archangel Fear.

She on the other hand was an Angel, the supreme rulers of Heaven, of the highest status.

Elline Sword Emperor Brigade from three-hundred years ago. Two of the girls that were known as the Three Great Princesses were walking beside Ren while leaning against him.

"Even so, there is nothing to worry about. Right, Ren?"

Fear who was holding tightly onto Ren's left arm.

"I will teach you all the necessary knowledge. To the extent that I will teach you the lesson at night gently."

"Well, Fear-senpai.....the thing is."

“Eh? What is it?”

The Archangel replied with a naughty smile.

As she held Ren’s arm, she naturally pressed it between her bosoms which was incredibly developed. It was on purpose. It definitely was.

“……Senpai, I guess this is how you behave in Earth, right?”

“It’s because I’m an Angel. Having a passionate body contact like this is the proof of our affection towards human—”

“You don’t have to listen to what this foolish erotic Angel has to say, Ren. It’s her bad habit where she lures human by seducing them in order to have fun by watching them panicking about it. Even the Goddess is fed up with her.”

The Dragon Princess gets fed up with the Archangel and glared at her.

“More importantly Fear, let go of him. Ren is getting troubled by it.”

“The one who put her arm around Ren first was me.”

“……And I’m asking both of you to let go of me. I already have a hard time since this luggage is heavy.”

Ren became tired since he had both of his arms being pulled by them.

The enormous luggage Ren was carrying on his back. If you didn’t include the basic travelling gears that were taken from Ren’s room, what occupied most of the luggage was Fear’s clothing and Kyelse’s snacks.

“Putting her clothes aside, do we really need those snacks?”

“Of course. It becomes handy, just like this.”

The silver hair girl who chucked a fraction of chocolate in her mouth. She said it in her usual laid back manner, except, she had a satisfied smile on her face.

“It’s delicious.”

“……What are you, a kid?”

“Isn’t sixteen still considered as a child even for a human?”

“Even if you were sixteen, it’s about time you grew out of snacks……huh, you’re sixteen? That’s of course in Dragon’s age, right?”

If you were to use the average life span as the standard, then the three great species consisted of the Dragons, the Angels, and the Demons were said to have long lifespans in exchange of their low population. Ren thought the same would apply for Kyelse, and hence presumed she had lived long, but—

“I’m sixteen years old in human age. Also, I love snacks. It’s definitely the masterpiece among what the humans have created.”

“But the battle from three-hundred years ago was……”

“She was in a state where she was sealed for three-hundred years right after the battle.”

Fear answered as her blonder hair blew due to the gentle breeze.

“Ever since the last battle, Kyelse had been separated from this world due to the special seal she was in. The isolated space where there wasn’t time, light, and even sound. Though her time had been stopped, she still had her consciousness so she had been finding the chance to break the seal this whole time.”

“That happened about a month ago.”

Kyelse who had finished her chocolate nodded.

“Eh? Then what about your rumours when you fought Elline? How old were you then?”

“I was fourteen. But still, I was already more powerful than all kinds of Dragons ever since I was born. Though I never imagined that I would lose against a human.”

“……So you really are younger than me?”

“Yeah. So it wouldn’t be weird if I take a bite or two of snacks.”

The legendary Dragon Princess fast walked and took out her second candy.

“Delicious.”

“You seem to be having fun……oh well.”

The silver hair girl put on a satisfied smile.

She simply looked like a lovely girl who was like a fairy when you saw her, but it was also true that Ren witnessed how she defeated a Wyvern without even touching it.

“On the other hand, I’m nervous as heck. Hey, look ahead.”

Ren used his chin to point forward to alert Kyelse who was holding onto his left arm.

—The armed parties that were walking through the main road.

There were many groups of parties walking in front of them and also behind them.

If there were small parties consisted of five members, there were also big parties that consisted of more than ten members. The organisation of the parties were very different from each other. There were common types such as the MASTERKnights and the ARIACasters, but even SPIRITSpiriters that were equipped with special spirit armaments and also FULLTYPEFighters that weren’t equipped with even a single armaments.

“See? Everyone looks strong. They really are different from the students at the Academy.”

The atmosphere they carried were different.

Their trained body which was solid like steel, and their eyes that were sharp as a blade. Their appearance and their presence were fitting enough to be called brave warriors. If they weren’t, then they wouldn’t be able to investigate the ruins scattered through the world nor could they fight against the monsters. But—

“……Hmm, is that how it is?”

From the Dragon Princess’s eyes, even the strong warriors from those parties didn’t catch her interest.

“Fear, are those also considered a party like ours? I think there’s too much members in each of those parties. I’m sure there were fewer members in the parties three-hundred years ago.”

“This is the choice this era chose.”

The Archangel who gave her beautiful smile to the parties that walked past them.

“Within these three-hundred years, the member types that constructs the parties itself went through some changes. MASTERKnight and ARIACaster were the only types back then, but now it’s separated into eight types.”

“Eight types, huh. I know Ren is MASTERKnight, so what are the other seven?”

Kyelse stared at Ren.

Ren pointed towards the parties walking ahead of them to answer the girl’s question.

“MASTERKnight, ARIACaster, SPIRITSpiriter, FULLTYPEFighter, ENCHANTERBarrierer, HEALERCurer, HUNTERPredator, and THIEFSearcher. I guess these are the current eight types. Even back at the academy, the lessons were separated into the type you were majoring in.”

MASTERKnight —They used weapon such as sword and axe. They had high risks since they would need to do perform close-combat at all times as well as making cool judgements and having excellent performance. They were considered as a “master”, the main force during battles.

ARIACaster —They would perform complex rituals so even the humans could use the magic and offensive-spells of the Demons.

SPIRITSpiriter —They used spells which relied on spirit-armaments which possessed the power of spirits.

FULLTYPEFighter —The combatant which specialised in close-combat and would combine the defensive-spells and their active body’s to eliminate the enemies simply with their body and fighting techniques. In exchange of having the strength to not rely on weapons and armours, they would need great amount of talent and training hence why they were called the “full type”.

ENCHANTERBarrierer — They use spell specialised by the Angels such as concealing, sealing, interception, and divine protection.

HEALERCurer — Other than spells that would alter the body activity and regeneration, they were type that was sought to have knowledge about pharmaceutics and medicine.

HUNTERPredator — The combatant that would use their knowledge about harmful animals to hunt. They specialise in shooting from long-range in order to support the party from the rear during battles.

THIEFSearcher — The brain of the party and in terms of field, they were more of an archaeologist.

“And there are also ranks where it’s structured in a way where your ranks would increase.”

“Ranks?”

“The eight types and their titles respectively. If you were a MASTERKnight like myself for example, then you would start from the III-Grade MASTERKnight, then the II-Grade MASTERKnight, then the I-Grade MASTERKnight, then the Official MASTERKnight, then the Honourable MASTERKnight, then the Sword King, and then the highest rank……the Sword Saint, I think.”

By the way, Elline’s title of the “Sword Emperor” was the name he had before people started calling him the Brave Hero.

Sword Saint would be the highest rank of the MASTERKnight and it was a title which was rarely given. It was required for you to pass the tests in several cities around the world.

“Basically each and one of the classes were said to be necessary in a party. Since there are eight types, the majority of the parties are made up of eight members.”

“Hmm? Then what about those group of five walking over there?”

“I guess they are looking for members they lack in. There are also gifted people who can take the roles of two types alone.”

Fear would be the easiest example of such people around Ren. Even though she was majoring in HEALERCurer, she overwhelmed the male MASTERKnight students with her swordsmanship and also made the students jaws dropped with her spells.

“Though it feels like Fear-senpai can take the roles of three types by herself.”

“Yes. I sure can take most of those roles—”

She finally let go of Ren’s arm. She became silent for a moment while she looked up to the sky.

“If you ask me what I expertise in, then it would be FULLTYPEFighter. HEALERCurer would come next.”

“FULLTYPEFighter!? Fear-senpai is!?”

“I’m good in martial arts despite my appearance. I could have majored in FULLTYPEFighter degree back at the Academy, but a tragedy may have occurred if I couldn’t hold back my power properly against the students for the mock-battle. Well, I have the confidence to heal and regenerate them if they receive damages to a certain degree, but I guess I need to restrain myself.”

The Archangel spoke a scary thing with a smile.

“Fear-senpai, you are a FULLTYPEFighter? ……But I can’t imagine you hitting anyone.”

“Ren, don’t let her appearance fool you. This violent woman is the biggest battle maniac in the Heaven who can even make the Goddess Resflaze become silent with a single punch if she became serious.”

Kyelse said it in a manner as if she told the truth.

“Isn’t that right?”

“Oh my, that isn’t true at all. There’s no way I can do that to the Goddess.”

The blonde Angel on the other hand shook her head while putting on a smile.

“By the way Ren, your rank right now is a III-Grade MASTERKnight, correct?”

“……Me? Do I have to say it? In a place like this?”

“Yeah, I sure am curious about it. We certainly need to know the current strength of this party.”

Kyelse looked up towards Ren with her emerald-green eyes filled with her keenness to hear his answer.

“Since you are a III-Grade MASTERKnight, does that make you roughly a Honourable MASTERKnight? Or is it a rank above the Sword King?”

“No way. I mentioned it before but it’s the lowest rank. The only thing above the Sword King is a Sword Saint, and there are only few people in this world with that rank.”

“I see. Well, I will be the one training you, Ren. How about your first aim is to become a Sword Saint?”

“……It’s too early to have that goal. Besides, I reckon we need more members for our party if we are going to find the Encore. Though it would be weird for me to say that. Take a look at them.”

The parties that walked passed them.

For example, if the parties walking ahead of them walked past each other, you would observe how they would stop and place their hand on their chest to salute each other.

“That’s the traditional custom done between the parties. It’s a form of greetings which has the meaning for the good battle and safety for each other.”

“Exactly. Though we hadn’t received such greetings even once yet.”

They only saw them as civilian.

After all, their party was made up of one boy and two girls. Ren had a sword, but both Kyelse and Fear weren’t equipped with even a single armament. Obviously the Dragon Princess Kyelse and Archangel Fear didn’t need any armaments. But from the perspective of a third party who didn’t know their identity, there was no way that they would realise that they were a party since they weren’t armed. There was no mistake that they were seen as a three strange fellows that were travelling.

“It’s decided that a party requires at least four members, so first of all we need to find the fourth member before anything else—”

“Then please be rest assured. I do have a person in mind who would become our fourth comrade. The triumphal town Enge. It’s planned for us to meet her there. She’s an expert who can use all types of spells.”

Fear answered with a smile as if she was waiting for to be asked about it.

“The spell expert? Don’t tell me it’s a famous person again?”

“If you ask me whether she is famous or not, then she sure is. Ren, you would reach the answer if you think a bit. Isn’t there another person we are currently lacking in for this party?”

Ren looked up the sky for a while after hearing the answer the Archangel gave with a teasing voice.

“**It can’t be!?**”

He certainly had someone in mind. Other than Kyelse and Fear who was the part of the legendary Elline Sword Emperor Brigade, there was one more “Princess” remaining.

“It sure can be.”

Kyelse who had finished her candy nodded with a satisfied tone.

“The former Demon Lord Elise. The woman who was the master of the Underworld in the past.”

2

Gust of the night wind.

The whirlwind that stroke Ren’s neck was so cold that Ren couldn’t resist the urge to shiver his body. If he breathed out, the air breathed out turned white.

“It’s freezing! It sure is cold if you leave the window open. This place is open to the weather after all.”

The wooden cottage.

It was one of the many base camps built on the roads between city to city, and town to town. Obviously the travellers and the parties, but even the tourists who would head to the cities for sightseeing used this accommodation.

……I wonder how many years it has been since I stayed in a cottage.

……I guess the last time I did was three years ago when I went to Holy Fiora Journey Academy to take the test.

They would be heading to triumphal town Enge tomorrow.

It was the city which was the closest to the student town. And the Demon Lord Elise would be waiting for them there.

“More importantly, I wonder how the former Demon Lord would look like. This is the Demon Lord we are talking about, so maybe she has horns growing out from her head as well as having fangs and claws while her massive body would reach the height of ten metres—”

“It will cause a stir if a monster like that was roaming in the city of the humans.”

The sound of the lock of the door being destroyed echoed throughout the surrounding.

The one who showed her face from the open door with a poker face was Kyelse.

“…..I beg you to knock on the door normally. We would end up paying up for the broken lock if we get caught.”

“Hmm? It was locked?”

Apparently the Dragon Princess didn’t even notice that she broke the lock.

“Putting that aside, it’s time for your training. We are going outside once you leave your luggage here.”

"……Eh?"

"I told you before, haven't I? About teaching you Elline's sword techniques. We need to build your fundamental basics first. Move your butt by grabbing your sword this instant and follow me."

After Kyelse said that, she headed out to the passage without waiting for Ren's reply.

The breezing cold wind.

It was so cold that it felt like you had chilling water splashed above your head which took away your warmth from simply coming outside.

"It's a good wind. It makes you become motivated."

"It's too cold, isn't it!? It's so cold that I'm about to lose consciousness rather than falling sick!"

"I have my scarf."

"And I don't!"

"—Let's end the joke here and start the training. Ren, hand me your sword."

As soon as Kyelse took the sword along with its sheath from him, she drew the sword out from its sheath as if she was used to it.

How it was drawn out beautifully.

Ren honestly became entranced at how skilfully Kyelse was handling the sword that was drawn from its sheath with ease by using just one hand.

"……You're amazing. So you can use a human's sword even though you are a Dragon?"

“It isn’t anything hard if you can control your body. —Like this, for example.”

The sword flashed.

That instant, her right hand moved while leaving her afterimage.

By the time Ren noticed it, the tip of the sword she was holding onto pierced through the centre point of the three leaves that were floating in the air due to the wind.

“W-What was that……!?”

“I pierced it when the three leaves overlapped each other in the air. I also would like to add that I pierced it while aiming to hit the veins of the leaves.”

“The veins!? You aimed for such tiny parts!?”

Kyelse handed the sword back to Ren, so he took of the leaves that were on the tip of the sword.

The leaf veins could be considered as the blood vessels of the humans. The plant types could be separated into parallel-veined and reticulated-vein. But the main concern was that they were thin as a human’s hair.

—She completely caught the trail of the leaves floating under this stormy weather.

—She pierced all three leaves at once at the moment they overlapped each other.

—And she wasn’t aiming for the leaves itself but their veins.

The Dragon Princess pulled this stunt off while she was talking to Ren.

She wasn’t exactly concentrated in doing it nor did she wield her sword with everything she had. Yet she demonstrated such absolute technique. It was questionable whether an experienced swordsman who had been training for dozen of years could pull this off.

“Alright, do you know what to do now?”

“I wouldn’t have a hard time if I knew how to do that with what you just showed me! Can you at least tell me a trick or something I should pay attention to!?”

“There’s nothing like a trick. Weren’t you doing the same thing as me?”

“What do you mean?”

“That night when it was raining. It was during that time when you were wielding the sword by yourself. You weren’t just randomly wielding your sword. You were aiming for the falling raindrops.”

“……You even saw that?”

“It’s because you reminded me of Elline. Putting your strength aside, that is.”

The silver hair girl made a fearless smile.

“There’s nothing wrong with your training and your hard work. You weren’t blessed with an ideal physical structure and you are not the kind of person who would take down the enemies with a huge sword. You are more of a technician who would find your opponent's weaknesses and hit them with a single strike using their weakness.”

“Seize the drop of water and a fraction of fire, and strike it down with a single slash instantly.”

“It feels like you are asking me to pull off an ultimate technique from the start……”

“This is the basic among basics. Elline’s swordsmanship lies even further past that league.”

“—Fine.”

Ren nodded his head with a bitter smile to Kyelse’s words as if she said something obvious to him.

“I’ll start doing it then. I’ll work hard till I can do the same thing as you just did.”

“**Two will be fine.**”

Kyelse crossed her arm and lifted up two of her fingers.

“Come back to me while bringing that sword where it had pierced two leaves. I won’t tell you to aim for the leaf veins either.”

“.....Two leaves? That’s it?”

He couldn’t resist to ask her. He thought he would be told to pierce three leaves just like Kyelse did. He was also prepared to be told to continue till he could pierce four leaves.

“For today, that is. I’ll return to my room, so come back once you accomplish it.”

“Okay.”

He nodded to the girl who turned around. Ren then moved his gaze to the leaves floating in the air.

==========

Inside the cottage.

“Seriously, Kyelse, you are sneaky.”

When Kyelse returned to her room, a blonde girl who was wearing negligee and was half-naked was in there. She was sitting on the bed as if it was her room.

“Sneaky?”

“The training with Ren. You taught him so attentively. I also wanted to blend it.”

The Archangel bent her body seductively.

Her negligee which had her chest part open even showed her cleavage which was faintly red. Along with Fear's natural bewitching smile, her charming figure would knock out cold boys of certain ages immediately.

"I don't recall teaching attentively."

"I mean that it looked like you were enjoying yourself."

Fear smiled as she placed her hand on her lips.

"You were so focused in teaching him that you didn't realise I was standing at the entrance of the cottage."

"……You were watching?"

"I feel a bit relieved. It seems like you are cheerful again. It was the same three-hundred years ago, but having a journey in a large group sure is fun. Ren is an honest boy so it's worth training him and its fun having him around, right?"

"I was cheerful from the start."

She removed the scarf around her neck and hanged it on the coat hanger located beside the door.

—A small quantity of her sweat on her hand.

—Without realising it, there was some heat on Kyelse's hand.

Her body that had become hot. But Kyelse felt embarrassed to admit Fear's words so she looked away.

"Geez, you really aren't honest with yourself……even though the temperature of your body increased."

"S-Shut up! Don't touch me! Don't press that uselessly huge breasts against me!"

She brushed away the Archangel who hugged her from behind.

This was Fear's preference rather than an Angel's. She couldn't help but use her body to interact with those she had a liking to which was her habit. What was a nuisance was that she had a power to read what was going through the minds of those she was touching.

"Hmm, I understand. So that's **how you feel right now**."

"……What did you understand, foolish erotic Angel."

"Hey, Kyelse, do you think Ren would also become stronger for our sake as well?"

"What do you mean?"

"Both you and I don't have a power which is even near of that from three-hundred years ago, correct? My old wounds hadn't healed and the Dragon Factor which is the source of your power hadn't awakened ever since you woke up from your seal. Certainly we can deal with majority of the opponents, but the situation right now is that we only have half the power we had back then."

They were in a level where there wasn't pretty much any enemy in this world that would be a threat to them even in their current condition. But it didn't mean there was zero enemy who would be a threat. What could be listed among them were the highest-level monsters and also—

"Did you hear about the "Five Great Disasters"?"

"Just the rumours I heard at the Dragon's valley. I heard till the part where they rebelled against the current Demon Lord."

"Yes. For the worst scenario, we should anticipate a decisive battle against them. I thought that the reason why you were working hard in training Ren had to do with it."

"You think too far ahead."

Kyelse shook her head reluctantly.

“I simply taught Ren what I remember about Elline’s training. That’s simply it.”

“I see. Then Ren might be facing a bit of difficulties then.”

Fear looked out the window. You couldn’t see Ren from this part of the room, but for an Archangel like herself, she was able to “see” him.

The appearance of a boy who was breathing heavily while he was shedding sweats due to the weariness.

“The task you assigned him to. That’s actually harder than it seems—”

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“……This is ridiculously hard.”

Ren’s shoulder moved violently.

Ren wiped his sweats that were falling like a waterfall from the tip of his chin with the back side of his hand.

“What the heck……”

The leaves were floating in the air due to the sudden gusts that were blowing at him. Ren stopped his eyes from closing and he even stopped breathing so he could concentrate on the movements of the leaves. He caught the sight of the trails of the leaves that were floating in the air in random directions, and then—

“Ha!”

Along with his loud voice filled with his spirit, Ren thrust his sword forward.

A single flash. The tip of his sword grazed the leaf by its edge.

……That was it.

He barely grazed the leaf by its edge. There was a saying which goes “To dance like a butterfly”, and this was indeed such thing. He couldn’t pierce the leaf by its core and the most he could do was to graze it by its side.

The leaves flickered and danced in the air due to the wind.

The same applied when the sword was thrust forward, the leaves also shook when it received the small amount of air current created by the sword. Just how hard it was to aim for the leaves.

……No, that isn’t it. The real problem isn’t that.

Once every two tries, the tip of the sword touched the leaves. If you repeated this procedure, there would be a chance that it would hit its core even if it was by luck. But the real issue here was—

“This again!?”

The leaves that received a direct hit from the sword get cut in half then dropped on the ground.

Yes. Even if the sword hits the core, the leaves get sliced in half without the sword being able to pierce through it.

—I wouldn’t be able to touch the leaves up in the air if I don’t thrust it with all my strength.

—But if I thrust it without holding back, the leaves get sliced into pieces if it hits.

“Oh……I get it now!”

The Dragon Princess did it with ease, but Ren finally realised just how skilled she was and the whole aspect of it.

“Seize the drop of water and a fraction of fire, and strike it down with a single slash instantly.”

Ren slashed with his sword. He thrust with it. He swung it. The air current created by each of his forms were different, and the strength of the air current would change depending on the force applied to it. You wouldn’t be able to grasp the core of the leaves unless you fully understood that.

Right after that.

Exactly at the time when his sword was about to touch the leaf, he weakened his strength.

To master the sword without using your full strength, but with your minimum strength.

“……And she’s asking me to get two of them at once. Isn’t she asking a bit too much from me?”

Ren wiped the sweat that was on his sword’s handle. Ren then smiled.

“Do you want to come with me?”

—I was simply happy.

Kyelse’s words when she said she would train me. I didn’t know what she meant at first. I simply thought she was giving me an advice where she was telling me to simply work hard and do my best.

But she’s training me with so much passion. She even demonstrated for me.

……More importantly.

……She even invited me to the party when she knew I was different to the Brave Hero.

I want to live up to her expectations.

I can journey to the world and she acknowledges me as her fellow comrade. Being able to achieve the dream I had since I was a child is making my heart beat faster and is giving me such passion.

“It would be a waste if I just give up here!”

Ren put strength into his hand which was icy cold due to being exposed to the cold wind in order to make a stance with his sword.

“I have to do it, even if I can only get one of them!”

The tip of the sword which was giving sparks succeeds in piercing through two leaves.

The core of the leaves. To be precise, it didn’t get sliced in half nor did it get shredded into pieces. Both of the leaves had been beautifully pierced through by the tip of the sword.

“.....Huh?”

The one who couldn’t believe his eyes was Ren himself.

“I……did it? It felt like I did it by chance.”

He stood there while holding onto the sword. And then.

“Yeah! Awesome, even I can do it if I try!”

He sprinted towards the cottage and headed towards her room directly.

“Kyelse! Hey, check this out! I did it, I really did it!”

“!? W-Wait, Ren! You can’t enter right now—”

The door was opened violently. And the one inside was.

"……You've got some nerve. Peeping on my body, are you?"

A beautiful girl who wore nothing.

She had stripped off her lovely travelling clothes. Kyelse was holding onto her negligee which had cute looking frills on them. She looked towards Ren with a red face that was due to the mix of her fury and her embarrassment.

"Ah, no, it's not what you think……I didn't do it……on purpose……"

Even though he said that, he found himself fascinated with her body.

She simply looked purely lovely.

Her body that had curves fitting for girls her age and her white skin which was as white as porcelain. Kyelse had an appearance which was charming enough as a human and made Ren forget she was a Dragon. Especially her body since you wouldn't have realised she had a mature body which you couldn't tell from over her travelling clothes—

"Let me ask you just in case. Is there anything you want to say?"

"……Well……umm, I think you're cute."

"Fly."

Kyelse said with her power of language with a red face. By the time Ren who had himself blown away to the wall of the pathway regained his consciousness, Kyelse had already changed into her negligee.

"Anyway, let me applaud you for accomplishing the task. To be honest, I thought it would take you at least a week."

Inside Ren's room.

The one who was sitting on the bed as if it belonged to her was Kyelse. Ren on the other hand was sitting on the carpet even though he was totally exhausted.

“At this rate you would be able to pierce three leaves tomorrow and four leaves the day after tomorrow. And next—”

“Next, what?”

“Try to do it while shutting your eyes close.”

“That’s a really hard hurdle!”

“Elline’s sword-techniques lay beyond that. Anyway, I acknowledge your hard work. You should rest for today.”

She said it while sitting on the bed.

……Even though she’s telling me to rest.

Kyelse who had said that was still occupying the bed. Ren wouldn’t be able to sleep even if he wanted to since she was still here. But it was also hard for him to tell her to move.

“Aren’t you going to sleep, Kyelse?”

“I’m sleeping together with you.”

He couldn’t comprehend her words.

Ren looked up for a while and then opened his jaws wide.

“……Pardon me?”

“I said I’m going to sleep on the same bed as you.”

Kyelse laid on the bed and put the blanket over her head without making a shy face.

“You should also come inside right away.”

“Umm……sorry. I don’t understand what’s happening right now.”

I’m a human. Kyelse is a Dragon on the other hand.

Apparently it’s a morphing which was a mix of high-level spells and space distortion to change her physical appearance into that of a human girl. So I can’t help but think there would be a problem sleeping with her.

“Can you tell me your reasons just in case? Wasn’t there also a bed in your room as well?”

“It’s part of my trait. It makes me feel calm this way.”

Kyelse wiped her sleepy eyes while wrapping herself with the blanket.

“Many of my kin were present at the Valley of my hometown. I often slept in a herd as well. I would be able to sleep easier if I sleep in a group with those I trust.”

“……The Dragon’s trait.”

Even though he was half astonished by this, he wanted to keep it as a secret that he was happy when she naturally said someone she can “trust.”

“By the way, what did you do three-hundred years ago?”

“Elline declined. He had been practising his sword even at night.”

“……The Sword Emperor did?”

“Unexpected? There isn’t a human which is strong from the start was that man’s words. Leaving aside his crazy guts and stubbornness, his strength as a swordsman wasn’t something he was born with. The reason why he was called the Sword Emperor was merely a title he obtained by working harder than anyone.”

Maybe Kyelse found Ren’s shocked reaction amusing, so Kyelse softened her expression.

“I’m sure that was the first time I heard that……”

The legend of the Sword Emperor that Ren knows of was that he was born as a genius. Unlike himself who had poor talent, Ren assumed he was born to this world with the talent he was given.

“I want to hear more about that story.”

“I will, but I’ll end it here for today. Hey, let’s go to sleep quickly. We are waking up early tomorrow.”

“H-Hey!?”

He had himself hugged by Kyelse who got up from the bed and then had himself thrown onto the bed. Kyelse was already inside the blanket by the time he found out she put the blanket above his head.

“H-Hey, can’t Fear-senpai be the one who sleeps with you!?”

“She’s no good. She’s annoying since she tries to hug you whenever she finds the chance.”

The Dragon Princess came close to him where they could feel each other’s warmth inside the small bed.

“Yeah, I sure do feel calm.”

“……No, I’m—”

“What is it?”

“……It’s nothing.”

The silver hair girl looked towards him.

Her peaceful smile was so gentle that he couldn’t say more.

The tyrant who had been feared as the strongest monster on Earth and who had been refused by the Heaven, the Underworld, and also her fellow Dragons till Elline showed up. But the girl who was sleeping with her eyes closed right beside him was simply a lonely girl who was completely different from the rumours he had heard. In fact she was—

Maybe the one who was in front of him was the true Kyelse. That was what Ren thought.

“But my main problem is……”

He rarely saw the faces of the opposite sex of his age while they were sleeping. And she was sleeping with him where she was so close to him that he could feel her breath. There was no way he couldn’t be bothered by it.

“……There’s no way I can sleep like this.”

Even though Ren knew he was turning red, Ren simply kept repeating those words for the whole night.

Then the next morning.

“? Ren, didn’t you have enough sleep? Your eyes are red.”

“Whose fault do you think it is?”

Ren replied tirelessly to Kyelse who had woken up from her deep sleep.



3

The triumphal town Enge.

It was a town located closest to the student town Mstier and it was surrounded by a giant walls to prevent the invasion of the monsters.

“I believe it was the town Elline returned to after he finished his journey to both the Heaven and the Underworld.”

The Heaven and the Underworld.

The town Elline returned to after he suppressed the two forces that were at each other’s throat and also stopped the battles between the two forces.

For that reason, this town still had strong connections to Elline even till this day.

“Hey, Kyelse, let’s get going! You too, Fear-senpai!”

“Calm down. There’s no point getting hyped over it.”

“……Geez, Ren. You are acting like a child.”

Kyelse who was partially astonished at him and Fear who was putting on a bitter smile.

“It won’t leave my head at all. Even I want to have a look at the real thing once!”

Ren walked through the road that were crowded with people walking by as he left the two of them behind.

Compared to Mistier, this town was the largest within the nearby towns so the number of people as well as the number of buildings were significant.

The public roads that were connected to the main road had booths on both sides. The people that walked by also included those who were walking with their families to even merchants, tourists, and even armed travellers that appeared to be a party.

Ren ran past the front of the chapel which was so large that he had to look up——

“There it is!”

Ren couldn’t help but gasp at what he saw within his site.

The Sword-Emperor’s sword.

The memorial area which was built as a plaza.

As the water fountain was set behind it, there was a single sword impaled into a stone where it was heavily guarded.

——The Spirit-Sword Vierge.

Even though the handle of the sword lost its colour and looked old, only the blade of the sword still had a transparent shine like that of a surface of the clear water to it.

The most valuable treasure of the triumphal town of Enge. No, it wouldn’t be far-fetched to be called the most valuable treasure for all of the swordsmen within the world. It is one of Elline’s sword which was one of his legacy scattered throughout the world.

“H-Hey. Is it really true that Elline was using that? I think it was called the Spirit-Sword Vierge.”

“It’s indeed the truth.”

The highest part of the step-cased plaza.

Kyelse nodded as she looked down the memorial area filled with hundreds of tourists.

“That sword itself as a Spirit-armament which is possessed with strong power of a Spirit. That’s the sword which was used to take down the Archangel who was acting tough at the Heaven and the Demon Lord who was acting like a boss at the Underworld.”

“……The sword Elline used when he fought the Archangel and the Demon Lord huh.”

Ren gulped as he stared at its blade which was giving out a beautiful glow.

“Even so, that was the sword Elline used when he was still a novice.”

“When he was a novice!?”

Ren couldn’t help but ask Kyelse again with a loud voice at the unexpected answer he heard from her.

“Just now you said that he used that sword to defeat the Archangel and the Demon Lord.”

“It was during the time when he was an unrecognised swordsman and the only appropriate equipment he had back then was that sword. I think it was during the time when he entered the second year of his journey, was it? Apparently it was a sword he found in a ruin by luck.”

“Well, putting the sword aside, the main concern is how he picked a fight against a Demon Lord and an Archangel when he was a novice swordsman. And how on earth did he manage to win against them?”

“Hmm? Well, that is—”

The Dragon Princess put on a meaningful smirk.

“Ask the great Archangel over there. Three-hundred years ago, she was trying to teach a lesson to a cocky swordsman only to get her butt kicked and she happens to be standing right there.”

“Eh? Don’t tell me that was Fear-senpai—”

Ren who was about to ask restrained from saying any further than that. *Which remind me, she had been awfully quiet since we arrived here.*

“Ah……now that you mention it, something like that certainly did happen……fu, fufu……”

The blonde Angel who smiled.

However, her expression was forced and even Ren could clearly tell that her crunched fist was shaking.

“The urge in my fist won’t stop when I remember about it.”

“……Ah, I s-see. So you are saying that you still hold a grudge about your defeat itself?”

“No. Let me be clear that I don’t hold a grudge.”

The Archangel made that part very clear.

“Except, I just remembered about how my fame as being the strongest in Heaven was tainted.”

“……I-It was?”

“That accursed sword, I shall make sure I break it this time.”

“You have a dreadful grudge against it after all!? H-Hold on Fear-senpai!”

Ren tried to stop the blonde girl desperately who had walked ahead with a crunched fist.

“T-The thing is. You remember about the former Demon Lord……”

“Oh yes. We were meeting up with Elise.”

Fear returned to usual self.

“Then let’s get going, Ren. This place is dreadful.”

“Rather than being dreadful, isn’t it simply you who hates that sword——ah, h-hold on!”

He had his hand pulled by Fear without any warning.

They walked past the main road which was filled with lively people. They turned right at the crossroad and entered the back-alley. Unlike the main road which was filled with lively people, this back-alley was mysteriously quiet.

“Fear-senpai, is this really the place?”

“There’s a store which is known very well to small portion of people. It had been a place where the parties would gather to have a private conversation since ancient time and it could be considered as a store used by parties. Wouldn’t that be convenient for us as well?”

Ren simply followed the Archangel who was walking ahead and was leading them.

After they turned into the back-alley which had split into complicated paths—

“!? W-Was there a fight? ……Hey, are you okay!?”

The words that came out of his throat was loud.

After they turned into one of the path, there were sturdy men that belonged to a party all battered to the floor.

There were five of them in total. Each one of them were large men that were a head taller than Ren and they all had well-trained bodies. Even the armaments they wore were first-class products that were engraved with powerful resistance against spells.

……Are these burn marks? And is this a frostbites?

……None of them came from swords nor sharp weapons.

Spell that was so powerful that it could break the resistance of these battle clothes which would nullify average spells.

“Hey, are you okay!? Looks like they are. Fear-senpai, can you heal these guys—”

“It would be fine even if you leave them alone, Onii-chan.”

It wasn’t neither Fear nor Kyelse who was behind him who said that.

The one who said that was—

“These guys made fun of me because I’m just a kid. It seemed like they didn’t know who they were picking a fight with, so I guess you can call this as their punishment? Oh well, you don’t need to worry about them since they would treat their own wounds or even head to the hospital once they wake up.”

A dark-skinned girl.

She had twin-tails which could appear as black or even brown depending on the sunlight. Her eyes were filled with curiosity.

She seemed like she had reached the age of ten or so.



“Ren was your name, right? I certainly did hear about you, but you really do resemble Elline, don’t you?”

“……Eh?”

“Why do I know you? Obviously because I was waiting for you, Ren. Oh, yeah, and also those two behind you as well. I spoke to Fear sometime ago but it had been a long time since I met with Kyelse. Is it exactly three-hundred years? How were you doing?”

The young girl waved her hand towards the Archangel and the Dragon Princess in a laid-back manner.

“Rather, haven’t you completely broken out from the seal yet, Kyelse? Hasn’t your power decreased rapidly?”

“Likewise to you. I never expected that you would have to start from that appearance by reincarnating yourself.”

Kyelse answered grumpily as she crossed her arm.

Ren nudged Kyelse by her elbow and asked with a low voice.

“Hey? This is my guess but is this small girl perhaps *her*……?”

“She indeed is. She was finally able to succeed in reincarnating herself ten years ago. Her physical body as well as her spells returned back to even before that of her prime. I suppose you’re exactly in the state when you were ten years old?”

“Pretty much. Though being in this appearance is also fun. Humans that doesn’t even know who I am act kind to me when I fawn on them. Even though they ran away as soon as they saw me, during my time as a Demon Lord.”

The dark-skinned girl started to chuckle.

While there was “something” that lured behind her innocent eyes that even made you shiver—

“Then you must be……”

“Yup. The former Demon Lord Elise. Let’s get along, Ren.”

The former Demon Lord pointed at cafeterras right behind her.

“Anyway, let’s get inside the caféterras and talk. I’ve become thirsty.”

Caféterras “Albireo”.

Behind the door with such sign, it was filled with lively people which wouldn’t even compare against those that were at the main road.

“Wow. I’ll be darned……so all of these guys are members of parties, right?”

The interior of the caféterras was so large that you couldn’t tell from the outside.

The counters had twelve seats and there were roughly the same number of tables meant for four people. So in total there were seats for exactly a hundred people. And that much amount of space were taken by the parties. There were those that were having a discussion while standing up. So you couldn’t tell exactly how many people were in here.

“Here! Over here, Ren. This is the last table so be quick!”

Elise waved her hand at them after she secured the table next to the wall.

She was clearly the only young girl here where it was a gathering of experienced parties. But the girl herself didn’t care about how she was standing out.

“Looks like there was one empty table left. Excellent. This place is usually full.”

“It seems like they have a variety of alcohols here, but do they have any juices here?”

Kyelse sat right next to Ren.

Elise and Fear sat opposite them.

“……”

“What’s wrong? Ren, the menu-list is over here.”

“Ah……yeah. I know, but—”

Ren replied vaguely.

The strongest Dragon Princess on Earth was sitting next to him while the Archangel from the Heaven and the former Demon Lord who was the former master of the Underworld sat opposite him in a friendly manner. They were all present on a single table.

“……I feel left out.”

“You don’t need to be so concerned. Anyway, let’s decide on the drinks.”

Elise said that as she held the menu-list in her hand.

“Ah, waitress, over here! I’ll have a hot milk. What will you three drink?”

“I’ll have an apple juice.”

“Then I’ll have club soda. This one which isn’t sweet. What will you have, Fear-senpai?”

“Then I’ll have a champagne.”

“Hey, Senpai!? A minor shouldn’t drink alcohol. Senpai, you’re still eighteen—”

“Rather than being a minor, Angels lives so long that you can’t compare them to humans.”

Kyelse’s calm judgement.

“……Oh, yeah.”

Because he had been with her for so long at the academy, Ren couldn't help but make judgment while thinking that Fear was his senior at the academy. The age of her being eighteen years old was simply the age she used when she was acting as a human.

"Hmm, so I'm seventeen years old and Kyelse is sixteen years old. Elise is—"

"I've just reincarnated so I'm exactly ten years old. That's why I ordered hot milk. See? It's suitable for my age, isn't it? Kyelse also ordered a juice as well."

Elise took the hot milk with both her hand that had been brought to them.

If she puts it that way, then they certainly ordered drinks suitable for their age which was agreeable since Ren ordered a club soda and Kyelse ordered an apple juice since they were minors.

"I see. Then Fear-senpai is the only one who in human years is—"

"I'm eighteen years old."

The blonde Archangel answered with a smile.

"Just your appearance. Haven't you been living the longest right after the Goddess of Heaven? Then that means, let me calculate—. Oh, then you are exactly……ouch!? It hurts, Fear! That was my fault so stop pinching my buttocks from below the table!"

"It's a taboo to talk about ages to a girl. Isn't that right, Ren?"

"Y-Yeah……"

The blonde Angel took the champagne glass elegantly.

Ren couldn't help but shake his head hard due to the pressure he received from her dangerous smile.

"Then cheers! Ren, let's get along as well, okay?"

Elise drank the hot milk deliciously while she held the cup using both her hands. She looked too young to be a former Demon Lord and she looked adorable in the way she acted.

“Ms Waitress, I’ll have this white wine next. Please bring me a bottle.”

“Hey, you drink so fast Fear-senpai! .....Are you a heavy drinker?”

“The species known as Angels loved alcohols from the beginning. Though I endured it when I was at the Academy.”

The Archangel didn’t change her expression even after she drank a glass of champagne in one go.

“Now then, Elise, it’s regarding the matter I have discussed with you for some time now.”

“The talk about finding the Encore together, right? I was obviously interested in it since I reincarnated myself ten years ago. It’s basically the last message that Elline left behind.”

The former Demon Lord who was taking small sips from her hot milk.

“Well, the truth is, I was initially wondering what I should do. In my case, I was looking for a way to return my body back to the way it was. So I was thinking of taking my time finding the Encore.”

“And if the humans found them while you were doing that?”

“We should just steal it from them. That will be much easier.”

The former Demon Lord said a dangerous thing naturally.

“Except, I myself know that the humans throughout the world are looking for the Encore. Just by looking around this caféterras, I can understand how there are so many parties. But the whereabouts of the Encore is still a mystery. So it made me

think that Elline hid the Encore in a special place. For his comrades' back then……in other words he left it in a place where only we can find it."

"I thought the same."

Fear nodded while holding the wine glass with one hand.

"For that reason, I thought we would need you after all if we were to search for the Encore. Depending on the circumstances, it might be necessary for us to enter the Underworld."

"I don't mind, but there's a tiny little problem……"

The young girl suddenly sighed.

"Let me ask a question to Ren who is a human. Do you know any rumours about how there's some mess going on in the Underworld right now? The rumour about one of the Five Great Disasters going nuts on Earth."

"Ah. Are you perhaps referring to the Great Demon who is causing a rampage at the "Great Volcano of Galia"?"

It happened several days ago.

Ren remembered how the instructors warned the highest-grade students that went out of the Academy.

"The rumour that the highest-grade Demon appeared and resided on Earth……"

"Yup. She belonged to my personal guard group called the Five Great Disasters. Since I retired as a Demon Lord after turning into this state, she stopped listening to the orders of the current Demon Lord who I passed on my authority to and left the Underworld."

Elise shrug her head as if she was troubled by it.

"By the way, why did she do something like rebelling against the current Demon Lord? She was your subordinate when you were the Demon Lord, right?"

“That’s because she’s stronger than the current Demon Lord.”

“You must be joking!”

“It’s true. In terms of strength, myself when I was the Demon Lord would be the strongest. But the Five Great Disasters were the second strongest after me. They were originally a candidate to become the Demon Lord. But I turned them into my subordinates when I won the election to become the Demon Lord. But because I had to retire my position as a Demon Lord all of a sudden, I ended up choosing my little brother in hurry to take my position when a problem arose about who would become the next Demon Lord. But my brother was so weak……ah, don’t get me wrong since he would have the strength of the previous generations of Demon Lords, okay? But the Five Great Disasters were just as strong as the other historical Demon Lords.”

The Underworld which is ruled by the current Demon Lord who happened to be weaker than the Five Great Disasters. Due to such bizarre relation within the supremacy, there might be parts which wasn’t easy to accept for the Five Great Disasters that were the candidates of becoming the Demon Lord.

“More importantly, Elise, your brother is the current Demon Lord? So your little brother means that ehmm……”

“It’s okay to assume it as the similar logic of human siblings. Though their appearance differs greatly.”

The Archangel placed her empty wineglass on the table.

“The Angels, the Dragons, the Demons, and the humans. The species with the most population among these four are the humans. But the one with the most diversities are the Demons. Not just their appearance, but even their strength has a huge gap in ranges. The current Demon Lord would exactly have the appearance of what you imagined, Ren.”

“By that, you mean……”

“Only his appearance looks vicious. He’s too big as well as having fangs and claws. He would most likely be treated as a monster if he was to show up on Earth. He’s butt-ugly despite being my brother. Though he does carry an impact.”

Elise said it in a happily manner.

“And one of the Five Great Disasters that rebelled is—”

“The Demon General of Blaze.”

Kyelse said it plainly.

“Ren, even you should have heard of the name Achendia.”

“She’s the Great Demon since ancient time!”

—Achendia the “Demon General of Blaze”.

The legendary level highest rank Demon who was even called the embodiment of hell fire that even appeared in fairy tales.

“That’s why I’m having a hard time.”

Elise sighed with an unpleasant tone.

“She was my former subordinate so I thought I should do something about it. But it would be impossible to stop her in this weakened form, you know? So I was troubled to whether I should focus on returning my body back to its original form and put the search for the Encore on-hold. So, this is my suggestion—”

“You’ll help in finding the Encore but you want us to help you in stopping Achendia. Right?”

“Just to be expected from Fear, you get to the point quickly.”

“I did predict what was going on behind the scene due to the Five Great Disasters appearing on Earth.”

The Archangel nodded with a bitter smile.

“How about it, Kyelse?”

“I don’t mind. Both Fear and I are far from our primes, but there’s no way we will be beaten if all three of us are present. Also, I want Ren to know it right away.”

“……Know what?”

“**The meaning to form a party with the three of us**, that is.”

Kyelse’s tone that sounded peaceful at first—

It carried so much pressure that made Ren shiver.

“Even though the action to find the Encore is the same, our party is different to other parties. This is a good opportunity to have you understand that.”

His comrades’ strength was immeasurable, but likewise, the strength of their enemy were also in a different league.

The ones that would stand in front of them would be a legendary-level monsters. The enemies he would meet would be all superior to him. The journey where point between life and death would await him right after he survives through a situation where he may die.

“What do you think?”

“……Bring it on.”

Ren held the glass of club soda with his shaking hand.

“Nothing would change from the time back when I was at the Academy if I get scared here. I also don’t mind who our enemies are. I simply have to go forward until I find the Encore!”

He declared it with all his might. He then drank the glass of club soda in one-go.

That instant.

“Gua!? C-Cough……i-it got caught inside my throat……”

“I-Idiot! That’s disgusting and don’t throw it up on me! What fool would drink a carbohydrate drink in one-go!?”

“……Looks like the road ahead doesn’t seem promising.”

“……Ren, that’s disgusting.”

Ren who had just threw up the club soda he had just drunk, and Kyelse who got wet by him due to sitting right beside him.

Seeing those two—

The Archangel and the former Demon Lord sighed at the same time.

4

The party departed the triumphal town—

They walked across the grass covered in rich green towards the west where there wasn’t any road.

“Unlike the previous road, there sure aren’t many people around here this time. Why can’t I see any parties anywhere?”

“That’s because this isn’t the normal path.”

Kyelse had her shining silver hair blown by the blowing wind. As Ren walked next to her, he pointed towards the horizon on his left.

“The constructed road would be located far over there.”

“I prefer this grassland. This sense of feeling walking on the grass sure is nice. I even want to walk barefoot.”

“It’s not like I don’t like this either……”

The grasslands covered the sight of every direction he looked towards.

The path they were walking on wasn't a regular road towards other towns. Instead, they walked off from the regular road since this was the shortcut. It was a grassland where there wasn't any guidepost anywhere. The advantage of this path was that the distance they need to walk had decreased a lot.

"Hey, Elise? Achendia of the Five Great Disasters hadn't moved from the Great Volcano of Galia, right?"

"She hasn't. She's the Demon General of Blaze so she loves hot places. So she prefers places like active volcano where it has magma bursting. I guess she made that location as her base while acting as she likes."

The dark-skinned girl who answered while skipping.

"Like I mentioned before, I doubt Achendia has any motive like conquering the Earth. The Dragon-species are also present on Earth after all. Though it would become problematic if we don't stop her quickly. Since a big shot like one of the Five Great Disasters appeared, there are rumours that parties from all over the world are coming to hunt Achendia down. She would be the best target for parties who wants to become famous."

"……So that means they will get slaughtered instead, huh."

"Exactly. Humans loves to replace the word reckless with the word challenge. The highest-level Demons such as the Five Great Disasters. There are only few parties that can put on a fight against them."

That was the reason why they took the shortcut.

The parties whose aim was to hunt down one of the Five Great Disasters. So in order to keep those parties from challenging Achendia and getting killed instead, it was necessary for them to head to Great Volcano of Galia quickly as possible.

"Well, there's another reason why I chose this road."

Elise chuckled and put on a teasing smile.

“I acknowledge Kyelse and Fear’s strength. But I don’t know about Ren really well yet.”

“……?”

“So do your best.”

The former Demon Lord winked at him and made a distance with him by stepping back.

When Ren realised it, both Kyelse and Fear had also stopped. They were staring to the right—

“……Is there something wrong with that forest?”

The large and rich forest that was present alongside the grassland.

At times, the cries of unknown birds can be heard along with the wind. Its voice—

It quieted down all of a sudden which made it creepy.

“!”

Ren discarded the luggage he was carrying and drew out his sword from the holder equipped on his hips with his reflex.

The reason why Ren drew out his sword wasn’t due to his instructor’s teaching but more of an animal-like instinct.

The forest then shook.

It scattered many leaves and what appeared from there was a single giant snake.

“A twin-headed snakeQuetzalcoatl!?”

A snake covered in an ochre colour.

A monster which lived in the forest widely throughout the world. It becomes so large and cunning where it could live for dozen of years long. The announcement to hunt it down were given to the parties immediately if it was spotted near towns. It must had come out after it was stimulated by the presence of Ren and others who were walking through the grassland.

“Ah, I get it now!”

The Quetzalcoatl was after Ren who was standing closest to it.

It was a monster which comes charging ahead by crawling on the ground where it has a speed as if it was skating on an ice. Even though it was a medium-size among its species, its total length had already surpassed that of an adult Quetzalcoatl. It was impossible to escape from its grip once caught even for a lion. Even so, all of its movement seemed slow from Ren’s eyes.

“It’s slower than the Wyvern.”

He simply said that.

He jumped exactly to the side of the monster which had raised its head. Ren turned around, and the large snake’s tail came striking down at him so he used the ridge of his sword to block it. He made the impact of the shock slide towards the back.

—Guarding won’t be good.

—The sword would break if it gets hit by it directly. Even if it didn’t, my hand which is holding onto the sword would go numb due to the impact.

The three years he spent at the Academy. It was something he learned so many times during the unofficial match he had against student MASTERKnights. You shouldn’t guard against an attack with your sword.

What conquers an attack wasn't guarding but evading.

The moment Ren's sword clashed against the enemy's sword (its tail), Ren let the impact slid away to the back as if it was washed away.

"Impressive……"

"That's it. I would give a passing mark for that move."

Elise who had a meaningful smile and Kyelse who nodded her head in satisfaction.

However, the reaction of those two who were behind Ren didn't reach him.

—A do-or-die situation.

Losing even a single sight of the enemy's move would lead to your defeat.

"Ha."

Ren thrusts his sword forward after he took a quick breath.

An instant moment where the Quetzalcoatl shrunk its body and halted its movement in order to focus its target on Ren. The tip of Ren's sword missed by an inch and cracked the twin-headed snake's fangs.

[Hsssssss!?]

The monster whose body was shaking.

But that only happened for a moment. It then carried the emotion of rage within the red eyes of its two head—

"Yup, that's good enough. Bye-bye."

The dark-skinned girl waved her hand light-heartedly.

Immediately after that. On the ground which was directly under the Quetzalcoatl who was about to attack Ren starts to build up and then exploded. It blew away the monster's large body to the opposite direction far away.

Curse-explosive.

What was left was a huge crater and a spell's circular-symbol which was giving a bright blow.

"H-Huh?"

The opponent who had himself blown away in an instance.

Seeing such thing, Ren blinked in an astonishment as he held his sword.

"What was all that struggle for……"

"It's okay. The fight you just put up was enough to show me how much effort you put in that fight, Ren. Wouldn't it simply make you exhausted if you continued to fight any further? Our journey has only started."

Elise whose tone was high due to the excitement started skipping again and approached Ren.

"Way to go, Ren. To be honest, I was wondering how weak you were since I heard that you were still a student MASTERKnight and tested you. But you were able to put on a fight nicely."

She approached so close to him that their body would touch each other. She looked up while her eyes carried a sense of curiosity.

"Hey, have you ever fought a Quetzalcoatl before?"

"No way. A monster like that would never show up at in the student town. Rather, that was my first time fighting a monster……ah, though there was an exception like that Wyvern."

"Hmm? Then you were able to fight that much in your first try?"

“W-What?”

“Nothing really. I just thought you were more capable than I thought. Right, Kyelse?”

“It would be a problem if he wasn’t.”

The silver girl, who was the only one eating a chocolate quietly, nodded her head.

“Either way, let’s move on. Keep on walking, Ren. It’s still far away from our destination, the Great Volcano.”

“……I know.”

Ren carried the heavy luggage on his back once again and started walking to the West once again.

The one behind him were the members of the legendary party, the Three Great Princesses. While he sensed their gaze on his back, Ren started walking across the grassland which had no road.

5

Due to the touch by the cold breeze, the grasses made a soft sound under this night.

While the cries of insects that echoed from the surrounding accompaniments the wind—

“……Alright, this should be fine.”

Ren wiped the sweat from his forehead and took a glance at the tent he had just made.

The dorm-type tent which used light metal poles and waterproof fabric. One of them was big enough for four people to sleep in.

“Wow, nice! That’s a fine looking tent!”

The one who came inside the tent from entrance was Elise.

“We didn’t have such thing three-hundred years ago so we had to lay our sleeping bag on the ground. Ren, you sure are skilful since you can build a fine tent like this on your own.”

“I always loved camping. This is also something I brought from my house.”

Sleeping outside on the grasses where there were no roads.

You would be able to find a basecamp with many cottages if you were to take the authentic roads. But since they didn’t use the authentic road and chose to take a shortcut, they had no choice but to organise their own place to sleep like this.

“I’m so thrilled. It’s my first time sleeping with Ren under one roof.”

“……I’ll say this now, but you would be sleeping at the far-end of the tent. I’ll be sleeping near the entrance.”

“Eeh? But I wanted to sleep next to Ren.”

“I have the responsibility to take care of the fire. So it would be better if I stay close to the entrance.”

Ren pointed towards the entrance since the Archangel approached him while putting on a seductive eyes.

Just like at the place where they encountered the Quetzalcoatl at noon, the areas which is outside the human’s towns would be the territories of monsters and demonic-beasts. So it would be normal to spend the night by starting a fire.

“Now my main concern, I wonder what’s happening at the fireplace—”

“It’s done! Gather up! Dinner is ready!”

They heard Kyelse’s loud voice from outside the tent.

The fireplace made by piling up dried leaves they found. The fire which gave out sparks was burning so high that the flames rise tall as Ren's height. There was a huge pot within the fire which was boiling the soup gently.

"Oh, so you really can cook."

"Don't look down on me. There isn't a single task I can't accomplish."

Kyelse in an apron said that with a satisfied look while she crossed her arm.

The one in charge of cooking would change daily among the three girls. The one responsible for building the tent is Ren. So it was decided that the remaining members consisting of Kyelse, Fear, and Elise would cook in a routine.

"So, what's this soup? The colour seems black."

"A special made stew. It may look bad, but I can guarantee its taste. Do you want to taste it?"

The Dragon Princess scooped the stew with a spoon.

"Oh, then I'll use this opportunity to taste it. What about you two, Fear, Elise?"

"I'll pass."

"Me too. Ren, you can try it by yourself."

"Sure? Then I'll taste on both of your behalf—"

Ren received the spoon from Kyelse. The moment the spoon came near his mouth.

"Ugh……!?"

The strong smell stimulated Ren's nose.

The strong smell. No, it should be more appropriate to call it stench. A mix of the sourness of strong acid, a rotting smell like of a fish, and a defiling smell like that of an ammonia odor—. Even all of those together wouldn't be this bad.

……What on earth is this?

……This is so bad that I can't imagine this exists in this world.

He shouldn't eat it. That was what his instinct told him as he saw a black matter when he scooped the soup with a spoon.

"H-Hey, Kyelse. What's inside this stew?"

"I filled it with all kinds of ingredients I found back in that forest."

The direction the Dragon Princess pointed towards was the forest the Quetzalcoatl appeared at noon.

"A weird looking grasses and a red mushroom. And also bugs I found on the branches of the trees and just over there—"

"No matter how you look at it, those are strange things! Rather, putting the mushroom aside, what's with the bugs!?"

Ren pointed at the strange ingredient floating inside the pot.

It was clearly mushrooms and grasses that gave out poisonous colours. And bugs with creepy appearances.

Ren already didn't know where to start regarding the problem of her soup. But the strangest part of the soup was the giant shrimp-like creature that appeared out from the pot.

"And that is……"

"Demonic Eclipse Beast. The fool who was arrogant enough to attack me inside the forest."

“That’s a genuine monster!”

The carnivorous beast that creates its nest with its deadly phlegm to wait for its prey. Like Quetzalcoatl, this specie was also listed as a dangerous species worldwide.

“I was looking for a meat anyway. Looks like I was able to get a big-one.”

“……”

“Well, then. How was the taste? Hey, it’s been a while since I last cooked, so how was it?”

The silver hair girl who stared at him with eyes filled with anticipation.

She wanted her cooking to be eaten and get a comment. She wanted to hear that it was delicious. She had an expression like that of a child who cooked for her parents hard as she could.

“……U-Umm, Fear? Elise?”

“I’m an Angel so I’m forbidden from eating meat. I’m truly sorry, Ren.”

“I can eat meat, but my tummy is already full with the milk I drank at noon. Sorry Ren. You can eat all of those by yourself.”

The two of them already escaped into the tent.

Both of them showed their face from the tent and waved their hands at Ren with a smile.

“You traitors! Rather, you two knew about this, didn’t you? I know you two are trying to get away by sacrificing me!”

“It’s one of those saying where “a wise man keeps away from danger”.”

“I don’t have the confidence that my current body can survive that cooking.”

“After all, it’s something even that Elline disposed of while pretending that he ate it.”

“Yup. He put an act by saying “Agh, my stomach……” when Kyelse was in charge of cooking.”

The cooking the Archangel, the former Demon Lord, and even the Brave-Hero avoided to eat at all cost.

If they ate such thing.

“H-Hey, Kyelse……my stomach—”

“So? How was it? I think it’s quite good even though I haven’t cooked for a while! I wanted you to eat a lot so I made sure there’s plenty of it!”

“Ugh……!?”

The girl who stared at him with such pure smile.

Ren couldn’t imagine how horrifying her usual cooking would be if this cooking right now was considered good. Except, he did realise that she gave a lot of effort in cooking it and that this was the best she could do.

She simply, just simply wanted to have Ren eat her cooking—

“……Fine.”

Ren stared at the spoon in his hand and the horrifying ingredient on the spoon for a while. Ren made his mind up and put it in his mouth.

“How is it? Quite good, isn’t it? Or did it lack a bit of saltiness?”

“……”

“What’s wrong, Ren? Why do you look so pale?”

“Nothing……rather than being salty……anyway, it was incred……ible……!”

Ren said that in haze as he bit his teeth hard.

Ren lost consciousness while holding onto the spoon.

"……Ugh."

"Ah. You alive Ren? That's good. You regained conscious."

What appeared in Ren's eyes who was still absentminded was the sky at night where the stars were shining like jewel box which has been turned upside down. And the small girl with dark skin who had such scenery behind her.

"Seriously, I can't believe you actually survived one bite of that thing. You really did give your all, Ren."

"You traitor…… More importantly, we need to rethink about our dinner shift."

Ren stood up tirelessly by leaning against the tree as he put his hand on his stomach which was crying in pain.

When he turned around, he only found himself and Elise. The other thing which appeared in his sight was the single tent behind them and the bonfire which was burning weakly.

"What happened to that stew?"

"Kyelse ate all of it. She said it would be a waste if she left any."

"……She actually ate that man-killing stew."

"Even I don't know what's wrong with the sense of taste that Dragons have. Anyways, Kyelse came to believe you fainted due to fatigue when Fear told her that. Both of them are already taking a rest inside the tent but we had you sleep outside since they said it would be better for you to feel the wind. And I'm on a lookout."

"……Okay. Sorry for the trouble."

Normally Ren would have taken the role to night watch.

"I'll take over the shift then."

"I'm fine. It's always dark at the Underworld so I feel better at night instead. Besides, there's something I wanted to check."

The small girl stood up and got closer to Ren. She got so close that their body was about to touch. She brought her nose closer as if she was trying to sniff him.

"Ren, I can smell something from you. A mysterious smell. And also a presence."

"Eh?"

"By the way, how is your potential as a SPIRITSpiriter? The type that uses spirit's armament which has the power of the spirit resided in it. I can smell something which is similar to that of a powerful spirit's armament from you."

"No, I also tried it back at the academy and it was an utter failure……"

Not only did the students took lessons for the types they chose themselves at Holy Fiora Journey Academy, but it was also a compulsory for them to receive a year of training for other types in their first year at the academy.

It's because there were times when students who wanted to major in ARIACaster which specialises in offensive spells showed that they unexpectedly had good trait as a HEALERCurer or had hidden potential as a SPIRITSpiriter that uses spirit's armaments.

"I did receive the training for ENCHANTERBarrierer and SPIRITSpiriter but I was really bad with spell related types. That's why I focused solely as a MASTERKnight."

"I see. Hmm. I was confident in these smells ever since the time I was a Demon Lord."

Elise narrowed her eyebrows while folding her arm.

“Ah, speaking of sprits—”

The slight possibility which Elise was indicating passed through Ren’s mind.

“I think there was a spirit which is attached to me.”

“……Pardon me?”

“Well, I’m not really sure myself but it seems like it’s attached to me. You know like those abandoned cats which appears and disappears as it likes?”

“H-Hold on! Calm down, Ren! What do you mean by that!?”

The former Demon Lord spoke quickly for unknown reason.

“How should I put it? There was a spirit which suddenly appears and stays around me when I was training by myself at the academy and then disappears after a while. I’m guessing there’s a spirit’s habitat or sanctuary close to the academy and it came out from there—”

Just when he said that. A small bright suddenly appeared on Ren’s shoulder.

The small spirit of fire.

“Ah, this guy was the one I was talking about. Oh what? Did you follow me all the way here?”

“……”

“Oh, so the smell Elise mentioned was you then? Since you didn’t show yourself, I presumed you stayed at the academy. Huh, what’s wrong Elise?”

“……*This must be a dream.*”

The one who previously had the title of Demon Lord that controlled the Underworld.

She stood in daze while staring at the spirit which was resting on Ren's shoulder.

"Kyelse, Fear! Wake up! Seriously, come out this instant!"

"……Hmm~……what is it?"

"……Geez, Elise. Lack of sleep will be bad for your skin."

Kyelse and Fear who came out of the tent while wiping their eyes. The moment when both of them looked at the spirit that Elise was pointing to—

"……Eh?"

They froze while having their jaw drop wide open.

In front of the three girls, the spirit which was resting on Ren's shoulder starts to float around the air without being concerned about itself being seen.

"Is there a problem with this guy?"

"R-Ren!? W-What's the meaning of this!? Was this spirit summoned by you!? **Were you hiding such great power!?** What is it!?"

"Woah. W-What do you mean!?"

Ren had himself grabbed by Kyelse to his arm and was being shaken around.

"Just answer. Do you even know how extraordinary this is——"

"C-Calm down. And what do you mean by I summoned it? This guy just appeared by itself."

"That's why we are in shock."

The only one who kept her calm was the blonde Archangel.

"Ren, to begin with, how much do you know about the spirits?"

“Umm, they are mysterious creatures that secretly lives at the sanctuaries……something along those lines? You would rarely encounter one but they say that they lend their strength to humans they get fond of.”

“Exactly. And armaments which receives their power are called the “Spirit’s armaments”. The SPIRITSpiriter can activate a powerful spell by combing the power possessed in such spirt armaments and their own spells.”

Ren knows that much as well.

It was the basic knowledge for the students of the Holy Fiora Journey Academy as they are a basic knowledge taught in their first year of the academy.

“Except, the power of SPIRITSpiriters are merely powers they borrowed. They are spellcasters that excels in using armaments with the power of the spirits possessed in them and they don’t actually have the spirits under their command.”

Fear continued without a pause.

“And from the humans’ perspectives, the spirts may simply be “creatures with mysterious powers”. Though for the Angels, the Demons, and the Dragons, we see them as different. For example the humans sees the Angels, the Demons, and the Dragons as a superior beings, correct?”

“…….Well, that’s what the instructor back at the academy also said.”

The three beings that were the rulers of the Earth, the Heaven, and the Underworld respectively.

They were beings that has much longer lifespan than humans and uses natural disaster-like powers. For those reason they were superior being that were superior to humans—— there were times when such was said.

“But from our perspectives the spirits are indeed the beings which we should be referring to as superior beings.”

The gathering of light particles that floats in the air.

They were mysterious beings which didn't speak nor did the people knew if the spirits could understand their language.

"So this guy is the real superior beings? Why's that?"

"**The perfect energy form.**"

The one who gave such answer was Elise. She had an appearance of a small girl but her eyes that was staring at the spirit above her head had a sign of high intellect.

"For example I, a Demon, needed a portion of my original body in order to prepare a new body when I reincarnated. Or else I wouldn't have been able to carryover my memory and abilities. Likewise for Kyelse, a Dragon, who also has only one physical body. Same goes for Fear, a Angel, since she's no different from us by having physical form for her body. Though her constituent elements is special. You won't be able to touch objects without a body and you also won't be able to drink hot milk at cafeterras."

"……Well, Fear-senpai certainly was drinking alcohol."

"But it's different for the spirits. They are the only existence that has a pure form of energy where they are released from the logic of having a physical form. Just how are they able to keep themselves from existing? Even we don't know how they were born and how they disappear. You cannot command them or make them obey you. But there were exceptions a long time ago where there were very few humans that were able to link their thoughts with the spirits."

To be able to listen to the voices of the spirits.

They were able to call out the spirits by responding back to them and instead of using the spirit's armaments, they were able to use the spirit's power itself.

"Ancient summoning"—— The very rare spell which is thought to be a myth among the many ANCIENTS"the lost spells".

“Currently, the saint of the holy-land Canaan is said to be the last user of ancient summoning of the world.”

“……Hmm, so?”

“Ren, we are trying to say that you could be the second person to be qualified as such. The one who uses ancient summoning, the ANCIENTER“Ancient Caster”. Or else there’s no explanation why the spirit has appeared before you.”

Kyelse who pointed at the small spirit of fire which was floating in the air.

Even so, she didn’t look convinced even though she said that herself.

“It sure is mysterious. Fear, are you certain that Ren can’t use spells or spirit armaments?”

“Yes, I’m sure. I saw it with my own eyes at the academy. What do you think, Elise?”

“Hmm……maybe he used all of his talent on this ancient summoning? If I have to make an example, then it would be a child who can’t add two-digit numbers but can multiply four-digit numbers in his head. Being able to do ancient summoning without having the potential of spells……this is……”

The three girls looked at each other.

Despite the three of them had difficulty analysing this situation before, they now pounded their fists together as if they realised the answer after some time.

“I get it now, I fully understand now.”

“I understand it now as well. This is the only answer there is.”

“Then it’s decided. Ren, it means that your talent is—”

“ “ “Indeed a fool whose memory sticks to one thing!” ” ”

“Are you girls trying to praise me or insult me!?”

He yelled at the three girls who said that with a serious face.

“But I really didn’t do anything. Maybe it’s just attached to me without thinking too much.”

“How about you command it?”

“Eh?”

“Test it by telling it to move to my hand. We’ll probably find out by how it responds.”

Elise stretched her arm forward in a childish gesture.

Ren looked at her small hands as well as the small spirit of fire which was floating in the air——

“U-Umm. Then can you move on top of this girl’s hand?”

Ren pointed at Elise’s hand nervously.

It was his first time commanding a spirit. He hasn’t even checked whether it understands human’s language. Just how much communication could he possibly have with such existence——

“……..”

The small spirit of fire suddenly disappeared.

Right after that, the luminous body which supposedly disappeared teleported above Elise’s hands.

“W-Wow! It really came!? That’s amazing Ren!”

“I never thought he would be able to control a spirit……”

Elise' smile which was filled with curiosity.

Next to her was Fear who was talking to herself without being able to hide her shock.

"Ren, since when were you able to hear the voices of the spirit?"

"……The voices of the spirit?"

Ren vaguely repeated the phrase he had never heard before.

"Umm, about this spirit thing, I don't even understand this ancient summoning yet. There wasn't even a lesson about it back at the academy either."

"You are right. There was an article about it in the old texts which was available at the library of that town. After all, it's an ancient spells which was referred as ANCIENTS"the lost spells". There's no user of it among the instructors of the Holy Fiora Journey Academy so they won't be able to teach it."

Fear immediately changed from being shocked to being able to speak in a calmer attitude.

"You could say Ancient Summoning is a space manipulation spell. The voices of the spirits is a sacred wave which can't be heard by the Angels, the Demons, and the Dragons. But since ancient time a very small group of humans were able to hear them. The ability to listen to the voices of such spirits and able to summon the spirits by responding to their voices. That's what an ancient summoning is."

"……I see. I only had an impression that you are talking about the SPIRIT"Spiriter" when I hear the word spirits."

"That's the general view the people currently has. As I mentioned earlier, a SPIRIT"Spiriter" and a ANCIENTER"Ancient Caster" are types that are familiar but very different. At the least, Ren, since you were able to command the small spirit of fire, the chances of you being a ANCIENTER"Ancient Caster" isn't zero."

“Even me right now?”

“Yes. First you would need to start from hearing the voices of the spirits. That’s the first step of ancient summoning. This is a good occasion. There is a possibility so we should try it.”

“You mean a training?”

“I won’t go far to call it a training. It’s simply to find out whether you can hear this spirit or not.”

The spirit which was currently floating above Elise’s palm. Fear directed to the luminous body which was identical to a small particles of flame with her gaze.

“Well then, please try. We will keep quiet.”

“……Alright. I’ll give it a shot. It will be fine if I can hear something like its voice, right?”

Ren walked close to the area where the small spirit of fire was floating.

As Ren stared at its fantasy-like appearance, Ren concentrated his consciousness by making his sense of hearing sharp.

——Silence.

——Silence, which made Ren’s eardrum sore, passed through the grasslands at night.

Then.

Suddenly, the small spirit disappeared from his sight without any warning.

“It disappeared!? ……Ah, that’s right. This always happens.”

“Did it work?”

“……Well, I really was concentrating all this time.”

Ren shrugged his shoulder along with a bitter smile to Fear's question.

"I heard nothing. I'm happy that you have high expectation of me but I have never once heard the voice of that spirit. That small spirit of fire always appears and then disappears on its own."

"Exactly. That's the mystery about them."

"Earlier, that small spirit definitely responded to your voice Ren. All of us have witnessed with our own eyes where the small spirit teleported above Elise's hands just like you commanded. That means Ren's voice has reached the spirit. Likewise, the spirit's voice should have reached you as well, Ren."

"Yeah. I think a one-sided conversation is strange as well."

The first time Ren saw the spirit was when he was a small child.

When he was alone, that small spirit of fire appeared from nowhere. Ren still remembers how he was staring at it absentmindedly while it circuited around him once before it disappeared without any warning.

……And that hasn't changed even now.

……I don't hear its voice since it appears and disappears on its own.

"Elise, what do you think?"

"Hmm. From my perspective, that was within what I expected. Like Ren said, it was hard to assume for Ren to be able to hear the spirit's voice when he couldn't before."

The former Demon Lord on the other hand nodded with a joyful expression.

"The alternative method I can come up with now would be……"

"So there's still a way!?"

“The one which is attached to Ren is the small spirit of fire, right? That spirit would be able to activate its power even more at the location where there is a strong presence of fire. So it may be easier to hear its voice. So maybe we can do something like chucking Ren into the bonfire so he can practice it while being burnt.”

“That’s scary!? Before I hear its voice I’ll be burnt badly!”

“It’s a joke. What’s left is how much you can concentrate when you are practicing. So it means it will depend on how hard you train and the spirit’s mood.”

“Ren——.”

While they had such discussion, the one who pulled Ren’s sleeve was Kyelse.

“We will change how you will be training from tomorrow. You are going to learn the basics of spells from Fear and Elise. And it would be mainly be about spells which could be used to handle the spirits.”

“Eh? What about the sword training?”

“I will continue with it. Though we will be extending your possibility as a ANCIENTER“Ancient Caster” much as we can. Being able to command a spirit that much would be powerful and can be used in many situations.”

Kyelse said it as if she was impressed and she rarely shows such side of her.

“Congrats.”

“Eh?”

“You’ve found it. An ability which only you can use. Whether you can attain it will depend on how hard you will train from now, but if you are going to do it, you may as well master it.”

“……Yeah, you’re right. I’ll try my best.”

Ren crunched his fist as he looked at the empty space where the small spirit of fire was floating a moment ago.

——Ancient summoning.

He was obviously happy to find such possibility.

But more than that possibility, Ren was happier to find a new possibility he could work hard to aim for. Ren could feel how that satisfaction was filling his chest.

……I had not talent for spells or anything.

……That's why I worked hard for using sword only.

Ren found another new area he could work hard with his all his might for.

He was able to continue his challenge.

Even for someone like him who was called the Fake Brave Hero. A new aim he could work hard for. He had found an aim which was worth the challenge. And the girls that were having high expectations from him.

He was honestly happy about it.

"It will take three days to reach the Great Volcano of Galia by foot. So we have plenty of time."

"Yeah. The duration from now till we reach there would also be your training period."

Kyelse who suppressed her yawning a bit.

"Yawn~……anyways, I'm heading to sleep. Ren, come in the tent and have a rest."

"Ah, I'm—— woah!?"

I'm going to sleep after doing a bit of sword training. Even though Ren was about to say that, he had Kyelse grab him by his arm so he lost his balance on the spot. He reached his arm forward due to his reflexes――

"Kyaan!?"

The moment his fingers touched Kyelse's buttocks, the Dragon Princess jumped while she had her body stunned.

"Ah……"

"Y-You idiot! Where are you touching!?"



Kyelse turned around as she hid her buttocks with both her hand.

“I-I’m sorry! That wasn’t my intention. Rather, what was that cute scream just now……?”

“~~~~~! T-That’s because you had to touch my most sensitive part of all places!”

“Sensitive?”

“I-I’ll repeat myself again! **This part** of my (a Dragon’s) body is usually hidden by my tail. So being touched there is unlikely……s-so……it’s ticklish……and sensitive……”

Her voice gradually started to become small.

At the end, she made a sidelong glance shyly as she wiggled her body.

“Anyway, you idiot! If you are planning to touch me there, do it more gently!”

“What the heck are you on about!? Ouch!?”

After being hit by her fist to his head, which felt like being hit by a large rock, Ren simply screamed on the spot.

Record.4: ELMEKIA DUSK Royal 72 Order of the Special Knight Squad

1

The heat and the temperature which felt like it could choke you.

Simply breathing in the air would burn your lungs. A place where the atmosphere was filled with such high heat which made you feel as such.

The town of the blazing cliff, Jio.

“It’s hot! So this isn’t a heat coming from the people but the steam which is coming from the mountain right?”

“This is a town which lies before the Great Volcano of Galia after all. Over there, you can already see it.”

Ranges of mountain where the summit of the mountain were tainted red.

Fear pointed at the top of a mountain, an active volcano where the magma spurred, with her finger.

——The location where one of the Five Great Disasters, Demon General of Blaze Achendia, awaits them.

“Huh? Are you a bit nervous, Ren?”

“There’s no way I won’t be. I’ve been like this before we even entered this town.”

Even though the surface of his body was hot, the part of his body deep within was icy cold.

The tension and the fear. Even for Elise whose current body was that of after reincarnating herself, their opponent would be someone who a former Demon Lord such as herself cannot face alone to the extent that she sought for help.

“Anyways, am I the only one nervous?”

“Are you implying I am?”

“You are like usual, Kyelse. I’m talking about the parties scattered all over the places.”

The people that passed through the main street.

About half of them weren’t the residents of this town but the members of powerful parties. There were obviously MASTERSKnights that were forging that swords and also what appeared to be parties exchanging information.

“Oh my. Achendia sure is popular.”

Elise made a bitter smile while she looked at the presence of dozens of parties.

“They will all be slayed, I guess? I doubt they won’t be able to defeat not only Achendia but even her henchmen.”

“……Don’t say such scary thing naturally like that.”

“I’m dead serious. That’s because there aren’t any impressive bunch here.”

The parties gathered at this town must mostly be newly formed parties. They must have gathered here to get their fame by defeating the Demon General of Blaze.

“Huh? Aren’t you Ren?”

That was the time when a young man’s voice came from behind them.

“Oi, it really is. The so called fake Brave Hero.”

“That one, right? The one who failed last year’s promotion exam and is repeating his second year.”

“……Senpai?”

The two MASTERSKnights that were wearing top grade armaments with carved seals engraved in them.

They graduated Holy Fiora Journey Academy last year and formed a party among their five friends. For someone like Ren who had repeated a year, they were three grades his senior. That made them a grade above Fear.

——*I wouldn’t forget.*

——*That’s because they were seniors that always tried to pick a fight with me ever since I enrolled.*

“Hey, what’s going on here? Skipping classes, are we? You aren’t telling me you formed a party? You are still a middle-rank student and haven’t even graduated yet. You are still III-Grade MASTERKnight aren’t you?”

“Or did you withdraw from the Academy? Hey. Who are those young girls? Huh…..aren’t you——”

“It’s been a while.”

The party of five members that graduated from Holy Fiora Journey Academy. The one who the female ENCHANTERBarrierer among them looked at was Fear who was famous for being considered as the first prodigy ever since the establishment of the academy.

“I think your name was……Fear. The one who was being favoured by the instructors.”

“That would be an exaggeration for someone like me.”

The Archangel responded with a smile.

“So, how come all of you are here?”

“Hunting down the Demon General of Blaze. Having a hotshot like that showing up on earth rarely happens after all.”

The one who answered was the ARIACaster who was wearing a robe.

He was one of the top students who was ranked among the top ten of the graduates. Not only did he receive lessons from the instructors of the academy, but he was also famous for receiving special lessons from his teacher who was a professional ARIACaster.

“Fear, why are you here? Weren’t you supposed to graduate this year? And what about your party?”

“I already formed one. I decided to go on a journey together with Ren.”

“H-Hey, Senpai!?”

Fear wrapped her arms around Ren and hugged him gently.

“Eh……that was unexpected. What happened with your graduation exam?”

“I decided to graduate from the academy earlier on my own.”

“Huh! These guys sure are naïve minded. Even though you were the instructors favourite, you are playing party-game with this fake Brave Hero……”

The I-Grade MASTERKnight spoke in a scornful tone while he sighed.

“A student MASTERKnight who repeated a year and only looks like a Brave Hero while trying to act——”

“Shut up.”

Kyelse’s voice which was filled with anger cut of the young MASTERKnight’s words.

“Keep your mouth shut, human. Someone of your calibre is a thousand years too early to insult Ren who is my comrade.”

“Huh? What’s with this girl?”

“——Fool, if you really want to be crushed, then——”

“Alright, that’s it, Kyelse.”

Ren rested his hand on Kyelse’s shoulder who was shivering with anger while he smiled at her.

“It’s fine. What he’s saying is true.”

“Ren?”

“It can’t be helped. It can’t be helped if I get such comments.”

If it frustrated you, then you shouldn't use words but make achievements with simple determination.

That was the reality in both the inside and the outside of the academy.

"Mmm……"

"Well, I was happy you became angry for me. Thank you."

He smiled at Kyelse who was making a face due to her dissatisfaction.

——*She became angry as if she was the one insulted.*

That was the reason why Ren was able to keep his calm instead.

"So will all of you be hunting the Demon General of Blaze? The enemy is the great Demon. It would be too risky to challenge it when you just formed your party last year."

"That's why this is the situation we couldn't ask even more for."

The I-Grade MASTERKnight declared boldly.

"Look around you. Dozens of these parties are our allies. Most of the parties made an alliance and are preparing for a strategy to defeat the Demon General of Blaze. With these numbers, no one can stand in our way no matter who the enemy is. Obviously the reward and the fame will be shared among the parties. But even with that, what we will get is more than what we can ask for since our enemy will be a hotshot like one of the Five Great Disasters."

They were currently coming up with a strategy.

Even though parties which would normally be rivals were everywhere, the reason why they were on standby without rushing was due to majority of these parties having made a temporally alliance.

“Bad news for you, Ren, since this has nothing to do with you. Do you think there will be a party which would form an alliance with you, an III-Grade MASTERKnight, and three girls?”

“Wrong. We don’t plan on—”

Just before he was about to say that they would challenge the Demon General of Blaze with the four of them.

The noises around them quieted down.

The sounds of hard footsteps could be heard from behind them. It wasn’t a sound of just several people. It was more than that. The footsteps which was timed perfectly with the sound of other footsteps. And the pace of their footsteps which had no flaws to each other——

“Hey, isn’t that……”

“Elmekia Dusk!? Why is the highest-level party with the most man-power in the world here? Does that mean a request of reinforcement was given to the supreme metropolitan of Elmekia!?”

Shocked voices which sounded like screams spread through the scene rhythmically.

ELMEKIA DUSK Royal 72 Order of the Special Knight Squad—— the highest rank party led by the Knight King Zellbright.

Twelve people that appeared in the town of the blazing cliff.

They wore their symbolic black battle-wear and progressed through the main street without even being concerned about the parties around them. Maybe they were overwhelmed by their silent pressure. It was clear that the groups of party members and pedestrians on the streets gave path to the members of Elmekia Dusk which was like a path was made in the sea.

——*They are clearly different.*

——*The pressure given out from their body was very different from the other party members gathered in this town.*

“What’s with those snobbish guys?”

“Elmekia Dusk. It’s the biggest party in the world. Not only in terms of numbers, but they are one of the strongest party in the world for having groups of the strongest MASTERSKnights among the elites as their core members.”

The one who answered smoothly to Kyelse who looked at the party without moving her head was Fear.

“Among the seven-hundred and twenty MASTERSKnights they have hired, only seventy-two of them can become the official party members. There’s nothing to criticise about their achievements and strength. But since there is a clear ranks in terms of strength, there are rumours that there is an intense battle happening to take higher ranks within the party at all times.”

“Looks like you are awfully well-informed.”

“I sure am. I haven’t been attending the party raising institute for four years for nothing.”

The Archangel responded with a smile.

“Hey, Ren?”

“Hmm……ah, yeah. There were certainly many seniors back in the academy who wanted to join the Elmekia Dusk.”

But the competition was very intense. Potential MASTERSKnights and ARIASCasters throughout the world gathered at the supreme metropolitan of Elmekia but only very few of them would be selected every year.

“I think the 1st rank was the Knight King Zellbright. I don’t see other high rank upper echelons among them either so I’m assuming that group is made up of

lower ranks of the ELMEKIA DUSK Royal 72 Order of the Special Knight Squad. Even still, just as you see……you can tell they are clearly different from others from the atmosphere they are giving out."

The noises finally returned to the main street. But the discussions were all about the Elmekia Dusk which had just walked past the street.

"……Geez. A troublesome bunch sure did come."

"We really didn't expect this."

The ones who distorted their face with hatred was the party of the Holy Fiora graduates.

"Looks like we don't have a time to waste anymore. ……See ya then, Ren. I will give you a good news before we go. There were rumours going around about you, though not much as Elmekia Dusk. The reason we found you is because we heard your rumours and thought that it may be you."

"Eh?"

"Congrats, fake Brave Hero. **You have already joined the celebrities even outside the academy**."

"……Ah, so that's how it is."

The rumour about a young boy who had a mirror image of the Brave Hero Elline.

It must mean that the rumour had spread fast even in this town of the blazing cliff. By the time Ren realised his senior was being sarcastic, the party of the five young members had already disappeared into the crowd.

At the large auditorium of the town of the blazing cliff.

A meaningful crimson carpet was laid on the passage. The windows for lightening the passage was set on both side of the wall where all of them had stained glass on them. So it gave a dazzling, yet sacred light.

“Wow, is the whole passage like this? It’s insanely gorgeous that I haven’t seen a beautiful building like this in Mstier. ……The world outside sure is amazing after all.”

Ren made a sigh of admiration after witnessing a scenery which was spacious as a castle.

“Hey, Kyelse. Don’t you think it’s amazing?”

“I don’t mind it, except why do we have to line up here for almost one hour?”

There are dozens of people behind them and also dozens of people front of them where all of them were people from different parties.

The Dragon Princess looked fed up by being surrounded by many humans.

“It’s for the party registration.”

The Archangel who hadn’t lost her usual smile.

“For requests such as that from towns, a set amount of money is prepared beforehand and is given to the parties where the reward would be determined by their achievements. You won’t receive a reward if you don’t register your party. And even if you did defeat one of the Five Great Disasters, you wouldn’t know which party had defeated it.”

“So it’s to distribute the reward and fame, huh. It sure is a cunning method a human would come up with.”

“You know, Kyelse, we wouldn’t be able to buy the sweets you are really fond of if we don’t have the money.”

“Hmm? That sure is a serious matter. We need to secure our reward then.”

Kyelse started to nod reluctantly.

“Oh well. You don’t need to worry since the only ones who is capable of defeating Achendia would be us so there’s no need to rush things~. Ren, you also need to give your all and survive, okay?”

“……Don’t say such ominous thing.”

Ren shrugged his shoulder after the previous Demon Lord slapped his back.

“But what about those guys? Maybe the Elmekia Dusk would be able to defeat Achendia……”

“Ren. Aren’t you taking the Five Great Disasters lightly?”

She lifted her eyes like a cat.

Elise made a fearless smile which could be considered disrespectful and looked up at Ren.

“You know they were Demons that were the candidates to become a Demon Lord three-hundred years ago? Ren, you said it yourself before but aren’t the members dispatched by the Elmekia Dusk lower rank members? Don’t you reckon they won’t be able to do anything?”

“I……Is that how it is?”

“Well, I would be grateful if they could stall one or two of Achendia’s henchmen at most. Majority of the Five Great Disasters are lone wolves but Achendia would be quite troublesome since she had many faithful subordinates under her. So having many parties come with us would be an advantage for us. We will have them deal with Achendia’s henchmen so we can concentrate solely on Achendia, you know?”

“They are that powerful huh. ……You’re right, they were strong enough to be the candidates of becoming a Demon Lord.”

The species known as Demons naturally had strength that were in different leagues to humans. For that reason they were called the superior beings and continued to rule the underground world known as the Underworld.

"_____."

"By the way, Kyelse, why have you been looking around yourself since a while ago?"

"It's not me. Instead, we are the ones being looked at."

The parties that bypassed them.

It wasn't just them. Even before they entered the auditorium, merchants and salesboy of the street stall had been glaring at them with curious eyes and had been whispering at each other.

"They are saying, "So that's the rumoured party a lookalike of the Brave Hero belongs to……"."

"Eh? You can even hear them whispering even far from here?"

"You shouldn't take lightly of a Dragon's senses. Your appearance resembles Elline to begin with. And now the three of us is here with you as well."

The Elline Sword Emperor Brigade which ended the End War with the only four of them. Everyone knew the legend of Elline and the Three Great Princesses which represented the three world.

And now there was Ren, a lookalike of the Brave Hero, and the three girls that were with him.

——Such party appeared for the hunt of the Five Great Disaster.

——A mere coincidence? Or do they have some connection with the famous Elline Sword Emperor Brigade?

There was no way the other parties and the town's resident wouldn't become curious.

"Oh well. The three individuals among us four is the real thing. Hey, do you think they will get shocked if we tell them?"

"……Don't. It will cause a stir."

Ren calmed Elise whose tone sounded like she was having fun.

"But the thing is, you will have to become one too, okay?"

"Me?"

"Don't remain being called a fake Brave Hero and start working hard to become someone who would get called a Brave Hero since you are with us."

"It's too early."

The one who said that was Kyelse who had candy inside her mouth.

"There's no need for you to rush it. Ren, you need to aim from something easy first. It's to become a Sword Saint."

"……Both of them would be hard to accomplish."

Fear rested her hand on Ren's shoulder who had just said that.

"Ren. It's our turn to register."

It was one of the four counters.

The girl who appeared to be a receptionist looked towards them and started to explain in a nervous manner.

"You must be here for the special-code 09 "Five Great Disaster Hunt". Please register your party's name."

"……Party name?"

The supreme metropolitan of Elmekia's "Elmekia Dusk", the holy-land of Canaan's "Canaan Pilgrim, the Boat of the Sacred Teaching", and also "Elline Sword Emperor Brigade" from three-hundred years ago had a party name taken from their territory or the name of their representative and such.

"Oh, crap. We haven't decided yet. Any good name any of you can come up with?"

The three girls behind him showed a sign of thinking up a name for a moment.

"I do! Adorable Elise-chan and her happy-going subordinates!"

"The party led by the noble, the strongest, the beautiful Silver Dragon Princess who had woken from her long seal—"

"Why don't we just stay anonymous?"

"……Fear-senpai's suggestion it is. Please register as anonymous."

Both Kyelse and Elise that were behind Ren started making a sound of displeasure but he acted as if he didn't hear them.

"Registration is completed. For this quest we have requested the aid of Elmekia Dusk for the hunt of one of the Five Great Disasters. They would be heading out tomorrow morning."

"So you are saying other parties should match them?"

"To have everyone cooperate, that is what we are asking for."

The receptionist girl said that with a begging eyes.

"The subordinates of one of the Five Great Disasters are gathered at the summit. If we don't suppress them before their forces increases more than this, there is a risk that this town would be destroyed……so I beg you."

"It will be alright~."

The one who waved her hand with easygoing tone was Elise.

“Rather, if Achendia felt like it she could have destroyed this town on her own. Since that hasn’t happened, it means she has no intention to destroy this town. She’s a moody individual. If she is in a good mood she wouldn’t do anything unless we take action so relax.”

“It doesn’t sound relaxing at all you know!? What would happen if her mood changes for the worst!?”

“That’s why we will take her down before that happens.”

The previous Demon Lord smiled.

“That’s why we should head to the inn. I have been sweating so I want to take a bath. You too, Kyelse.”

“The party’s name……the special party name I have been coming up with since yesterday……”

“That was the name you came up with after seriously thinking about it!? Oh well, anyways, let’s get going.”

Ren took Kyelse’s hand who was putting on a sulking face and left the auditorium quickly.

And then——the moment they came out. *Noises*. The parties and the residents that seemed to be waiting for them outside the auditorium all looked at them.

“Woah?”

“They were the parties that were looking at us before. I guess rumours brought more rumours and ended up gathering all these people.”

It was exactly like the situation when the Elmekia Dusk showed up before. They didn’t come to talk to them directly. But they were whispering to each other quietly.

“Ren. Let’s go. We need to book an inn first and have you concentrate on your training like usual.”

“…...Alright. The inn it is. Umm, I’m sure there was one this way.”

Kyelse who was following right behind him.

Ren walked through the main street while taking her small hand.

“By training, do you mean you will teach me about sword again?”

“At noon, yes. I will look after you in terms of swords. But at night it will be Fear and Elise. The ancient summoning, the one we had you train every day. It seems like you can’t hear the voices of the spirits yet. But we will have you continue it until we can.”

“……Roger that. Though I am trying.”

“It’s natural that you can’t perform it yet. It wouldn’t be called ANCIENTS“the lost spells” if it was that easy to acquire.”

The public road filled with people.

The silver haired girl then plainly said it while looking ahead.

“Even so, our battle against Achendia would be tomorrow. We don’t have time but we will have you train much as time would allow it. Both sword and ancient summoning.”

2

The town of the blazing cliff where there was still heat and commotion.

The hot wind which came from the active volcano where one of the Five Great Disasters awaits them. Even late at night, where jet-black curtain has covered the sky, the hot air was still present which made you sweat slowly.

“Thank you for waiting, Ren. You seemed to be quite tired now.”

“Hey, Fear-senpai…… Yeah, I’ve been sword training with Kyelse till just now. But seriously, no wonder this place is called the town of the blazing cliff. I never thought it would be this hot even at night so I was cooling off while taking a break.”

Ren turned around with a smile to the blonde girl who appeared on his way to the inn. Though his smile turned into an expression filled with fatigue immediately——

“……Except, I couldn’t calm myself down even though I took a break.”

“What do you mean?”

“I think I’m……nervous. The Demon General of Blaze would be a great Demon who I would never have imagined to face. Even though I was training with Kyelse, I kept on realising that I’m still inexperience.”

“That’s how it should be.”

The respond the Archangel gave was a peaceful nod.

“Instead I would have been troubled if you said you were confident in yourself. That attitude is much better than those people from the other parties around here who are trying to face one of the Five Great Disasters without having the proper strength to face her and simply rushing for glory.”

“That may be true……”

“Knowing your weakness is the key to your growth. Ren, that modesty of yours is your strong point. Though talking about it in the middle of the street is strange. Let’s head to my room.”

The room Fear pointed at was right beside the room where Ren was staying at.

They booked two rooms.

The other rooms were already fully booked by the other parties, but luckily there were two rooms left.

It was good that they were able to divide the room among Ren and the three girls. Though the room would be too small for three people to stay in so they had no choice but to share each room among two people. So the room was shared between Ren & Kyelse for one room and Elise & Fear for the other room.

“Please come in. Elise went to take a night walk but she should be returning soon. Till then, there’s something I need to tell you.”

“About the ancient summoning?”

“Yes. We would be facing Achendia tomorrow so I’ll tell you a bit about it.”

——*You don’t need to feel so reserved.*

Fear entered her room gallantly as if she wanted to say that.

“T-Then excuse me————!”

Exactly when he entered the room.

The explosion of light. Ren took several steps back in reflex and had his eyes blinded by the light which was so strong that it could lighten the sky of the night.

“Oh my, pardon me. Was it too bright?”

“Senpai, those wings are……?”

The Archangel Fear who was the strongest in Heaven.

Fear who had pure-white wings growing out from her back was smiling normally inside her room.

“But first, there is something I must give you.”

The Angel who touched her own wing. What she pinched using her fingers was a single feather, a beautiful feather which was glowing, from her wing which just appeared.

“Here, please take this.”

“Eh? Isn’t this——”

“This is my present for you. Ren, this will be a ritual item for activating your ancient summoning.”

The Angel continued with a casual tone.

“We had you train by trying to have you communicate with the small spirit which is attached to you till we reached this town of the blazing cliff.”

“……Yeah. I was actually giving my all for the training.”

For the past three days, the small spirit of fire certainly appeared in front of Ren when they were camping outside.

It was certain that it was attached to Ren.

But no matter how much Ren tried to concentrate in trying to hear its voice, the spirit didn’t say anything to him after all. It was floating in the air optimistically and disappeared when it felt like it.

“So then, what do you mean when your feather would be a ritual item to activating the spell?”

“There are two factors you need in order to use ancient summoning. One is the power to hear the voices of the spirits. And the second is the activation substance for the spell. We are talking about a powerful spell to summon the spirits here, so you would need a suitable activation substance for it.”

“And this is……”

Ren stared at the Angel’s feather held in his hand.

The sacred ritual item which was giving out a shallow light.

“I certainly was taught that using the leaves of an ancient trees or items which is possessed by spiritual power would enhance the power of normal spells. Would it be safe to assume that the same logic would apply here?”

“Exactly. Though a normal activation substance wouldn’t be able to activate the ancient summoning. The “divine item” which is much superior than a mere ritual item——please excuse myself but I am an Archangel who has the second highest rank in Heaven after the Goddess Resflaze-sama. With a powerful activation substance such as this, even for you who doesn’t know much about ancient summoning yet would perhaps be able to succeed in activating simple spells.”

“Even for me right now?”

“Yes. Though I may be repeating myself but the most crucial factor in this is for you to be able to communicate with the spirits. I was originally planning to hand this to you once you were able to do that.”

“Is it alright for me to receive this now?”

“You can say it’s a replacement for a lucky charm. And also as a reward for you as you were working hard for the past three days.”

The blonde Archangel answered with a graceful smile.

Right after that.

“I’m back! Oh, Ren’s here!”

The door opened and a dark skinned girl rushed into the room.

“Did you receive Fear’s feather already? Then I should give you one as well.”

“You will give me something too, Elise?”

“Yup. I’ll give you this.”

A gold-like jewel which was glowing in yellow-brown colour.

Amber——a fossilisation of a large tree's resin over a long period.

"Remember what Fear said? About how ancient summoning is a high-level spell which involves the manipulation of space. Spirits aren't the only things you can summon. It should be even possible to summon simple objects."

"What do you mean?"

"Assume that the Angel's feather is the activation substance for the ancient summoning. And the one I handed to you will be to summon physical objects. In other words, you would need different ritual item for different types of summoning."

"So even a jewel like this can become an activation substance?"

An Archangel's feather which looked powerful no matter how you saw it.

On the other hand a jewel given to Ren from Elise looked like a simple jewel at first glance.

"Well, it's natural for you to feel that way. But it isn't a normal amber. It's a jewel condensed from the resin belonging to a one-thousand years old tree which was present in the Underworld. Also, can you see a black line inside the amber?"

"……Umm, oh this."

A narrow line which Ren originally thought was a crack.

There was something, something narrow like a string inside the amber.

"It's my hair. I used this as a medium to seal my, a Demon Lord's, power. It was a jewel I had prepared three-hundred years ago but it wasn't enough to make my reincarnated body mature. I'll give it to you since I won't be using it."

"Is it really okay?"

"Yup. You've been training to summon that spirit till yesterday, right? Even though it may be the same ancient summoning, summoning a physical object

might be easier. Rather than summoning a special being like spirits, you would be summoning something you are familiar with. To explain it in details, you can for example summon a book you left at the academy."

"……Isn't that also amazing enough!?"

"Right? But this will be hard in terms of when to use it."

Elise answered with a meaningful smile.

"Anyway, the effect of the ancient summoning apparently had to do with the spellcaster's skills and the power possessed inside the divine item. Ren, you haven't actually started training spells yet. But what you have are the divine items which came from me, the previous Demon Lord, and Fear, an Archangel. So you will be compensating your skills with a powerful activation substance."

The Angel's feather would be for the spirit summoning purpose.

The Demon's jewel would be for the physical object summoning purpose.

Ren nodded his head while holding onto both of those activation substances.

"So I'll be able to summon everything besides the spirits with this amber of yours then, right?"

"That's how it is said. Even though I said physical object, it's for non-living objects so you should give it a try. Ren, try to summon one of the education books you left in your so-called academy."

"……By the way, how should I do it?"

"I don't know. Ancient summoning was a spell which belonged to the humans. It's said that spirit summoning is to summon the spirits through communication with them. But there is lack of information in regards to summoning physical objects."

The previous Demon Lord shook her head immediately.

“Though if it’s a space-manipulation spell like the ancient summoning, then there is a spell created by the Demons which resembles it. The trick I used back then was, let me see……you make your mind go blank, then imagine you are manipulating space quietly, and then bang, you activated it. Easy right?”

“Pardon me?”

“That’s why I’m saying that you make your mind go blank, then imagine you are manipulating space, and then bang!”

“……Hold on a sec. My brain is about to explode.”

Ren stopped Elise and put this hand on his forehead.

In terms of the way how Kyelse taught Ren sword techniques, the training would involve Ren watching Kyelse wield the sword and learn it. According to Kyelse “explaining it in words is hard” for her so Ren would have a hard time acquiring it since there wasn’t any explanation given to him in words. Though Elise’s explanation was hard to comprehend in a different way.

——*I need to imagine my education book to appear strongly.*

He could guess that was what she wanted to say. But he never anticipated that a Demon’s logic behind spells would be a vague sense of feeling as this.

“Well then, start already! I’m also looking forward to your summoning, Ren!”

“I’ll give it a shot but don’t hold too much hope. I still can’t do the spirit summoning either……”

The Demon Lord’s jewel which was glowing in his left hand.

What Ren imagined in his head was his education book he left in the academy while he gripped the Demon Lord’s jewel for a long time.

His education book which he read through it so many times that the pages were torn. Ren still remembered the sensation and the weight of his book within his hands——

That instant.

The Demon Lord's jewel was enveloped by a strong golden light.

"……What!?"

Ren was about to drop the jewel due to the sudden activation but he managed to stop himself from dropping it.

After the light settled.

A familiar old education book dropped on the floor close to Ren's foot.

"……Eh? Does this mean I succeeded?"

He still couldn't believe it even though he activated it himself.

But the book which was on the ground in front of him was certainly the education book he imagined inside his head.

"Hmm, nice job Ren. I was actually surprised for real this time."

Elise who picked the education book from the ground.

The innocent looking eyes which belonged to a young girl rises up happily. But her eyes becomes so sharp and gets filled with devilishness that even Ren felt chills on his back.

——The smile she is making while she showed a slight expression of when she was a Demon Lord.

——Therefore the praise she just gave must have come from the bottom of her heart.

"Even so, I only succeeded in summoning a single book as this……"

"Ren, you are saying that because you don't realise how hard space manipulation spells are. You do know that the spell you just showed would be a level where the

instructors from the Holy Fiora Journey Academy would faint due to the shock if they saw that?"

The one who answered with a bittersweet smile was Fear.

The Archangel who took the book Elise had just picked up and started observing it.

"I see. It certainly is Ren's book. It's certain that this is a book which was summoned from the Holy Fiora Journey Academy which is located very far from here. Though you would require more training for spirit summoning, it seems like you would improve this summoning more than I thought."

"……Y-You think?"

"That's why **your aim would be to maintain this book at this spot for more than an hour**."

"Eh?"

Ren couldn't understand Fear's word immediately.

The exact moment when Ren was about to ask her——

"This is what I mean."

The education book Fear was holding onto disappeared after being engulfed by golden sparkles.

"!? It disappeared!?"

"It returned to its original location. "Karma" and "time" are the two important requirements for ancient summoning."

Elise gave a steady answer.

With an unhesitant tone as if she already predicted that Ren would get shocked.

“Though it’s also the weakness of ancient summoning since you can’t keep what you have summoned within your reach for unlimited time. It is said that you would be given the “time” restraint. By the way, I was actually counting in secret just now and that book returned exactly after twenty seconds.”

“For such short time…… Oh, so this is what you meant when you said it will be hard to find the situation to use it.”

“Exactly. That’s why the main target of summoning for ancient summoning would be the spirits after all. The spirits would respond to your voice and stay in that location. But lifeless objects which doesn’t have consciousness has a trait to return to its original location immediately. Right, Fear?”

“That’s correct. Except, the factor which would connect the summoned object and Ren would be the “karma” shared between them. For that reason you were able to summon it on your first try, Ren. For example, even if it was another education book which was located in the library, the chances you would be able to summon the said-book would be very low due to the weak karma between you and that book. Even if you were able to summon it——”

“So rather than twenty seconds, it would return in few seconds?”

“Yes.”

“……I see. But I think I got the gist of it.”

Ren wouldn’t be able to summon an object which has a weak karma with him. Even if he did, it would disappear instantly. It meant the ancient summoning wasn’t perfect even if it was is considered as ANCIENTS“the lost spells”.

“If that’s the case I might as well try again since I did succeed in——”

“Ren.”

Ren wanted to practise it once more.

But the one who spoke over Ren's words was Kyelse who had entered the room all of a sudden.

"Huh, Kyelse? Since when were you there?"

"I was here since before. You didn't notice me since you were all ears to Elise's explanation."

After having said that, Kyelse held Ren's hand tightly.

"This is enough for today so you should take a rest already. You should be tired because of the sword training you had with me as well."

"At least let me try once more——"

"Tomorrow will be the battle against one of the Five Great Disasters. We would be troubled if you go down at a crucial moment due to lack of rest."

She didn't even allow him to argue back.

Kyelse's words was so appropriate that Ren was about to laugh without thinking.

"Let's go."

"……Fine. Anyways, Fear-senpai, Elise, thanks."

Ren returned to the room next door while being dragged by Kyelse.

Soon as they went to their room——

"Seriously, you get caught up with training easily. You were tired a moment ago due to the training with me."

Kyelse sighed while sitting on the bed.

"Let me confirm but did you receive the activation substances?"

"I got one each from Fear-senpai and Elise. I may ask you a weird question but these are valuable items which would hold high values if I sold them, right?"

The divine items which had the power of the Archangel and the Demon Lord respectively.

“If I put it into the human’s value, then just selling one will allow you to buy a whole town.”

“That much!?”

“The ritual items, which has the power of either an Angels or Demons, would function as a defence barrier which has resistances against all sorts of spells. If it’s a divine item with the power of an Archangel, who is the second highest rank after the Goddess, or the Demon Lord, then it would normally become a “shield” which would be too powerful for a human to be in possession of.”

Ren couldn’t actually understand it since he was given them so normally. But the Archangel’s feather and the Demon Lord’s jewel he was holding onto would indeed be the world treasures.

“But think about it very hard. Why do you think Elise and Fear gave you such valuable divine item? Especially Fear’s feather. The reason why she gave you the activation substance even though you still can’t communicate with the spirits.”

“……Because I’m inexperience?”

You can make up for the spellcaster of ancient summoning’s skills by the use of powerful activation substance. That was what Ren was told.

“Half right and half wrong. More than you being inexperience, it has more to do with the single enemy we are facing this time being powerful.”

“The Five Great Disasters……”

“Our current power is nowhere near our actual powers. On the other hand the strength of the Five Great Disasters surpasses that of current Demon Lord of the Underworld. Then what do you think will happen?”

The Dragon Princess stared at the ceiling while she sat on the bed.

“What do you mean by what will happen……”

“It means that even I will have a really hard time fighting Achendia alone.”

The silver haired girl said it plainly.

“That’s why you need to protect yourself on your own. Think of the divine items that Fear and Elise gave you not as an activation substances for the ancient summoning but as a powerful defence barrier and keep it close to you all the time. You have to protect yourself. When we are fighting, just put your life as the priority.”

“…..Yeah. You are right.”

“Why don’t you sound convinced even though you said you do understand?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

Ren shook his head as if he was laughing at himself to Kyelse who was looking up at him.

……I also want to become the manpower of the group.

……But right now, I’m not in a position where I can say that.

“I know I’m being hasty. But I was wondering if I can become a strength to this party one day.”

“Don’t feel so down. I’ve been training you while having such intent from the start.”

Kyelse who had got up from the bed reached out her hand. What she grabbed with her hand was a single sword covered in brown colour sheath which was fading away.

“My sword?”

“In your case, not only your strength but you also need to do something with this sword or you can’t even start yet. I’m guessing you bought this in a minor weapon shop where you chose the cheapest second-hand one.”

“Ugh!?”

He couldn’t argue back. Ren bought the cheapest second hand sword from the town’s weapon shop when his enrolment to Holy Fiora Journey Academy was decided.

“The length of the sword as well as the weight of it doesn’t match your height and strength. The grip is also in bad condition. Instead I’m amazed you were able to use this till now.”

“……Are you praising me?”

“Yeah. Though this will be a joke if you are going to fight a high level Angels, Demons, and Dragons.”

Kyelse who drew out the blade from the sheath smoothly and started staring at the blade.

“The many layers of defence barrier the Archangels have around them. The Dragon’s scale which has stronger hardness than iron and steel. The miasma given out from high level Demons. All of them are a threat to humans. For example the Five Great Disaster we are facing this time. Let’s say you succeed in surprise attacking the Demon General of Blaze Achendia and cut her from behind——”

“And then?”

“The moment your blade touched Achendia’s miasma, the blade will corrode without any resistance and turn into dust.”

“Just how useless can it be!?”

“You would need a spirit armament which would be a sword with power of the spirit possessed in it at worst. The reason we chose the triumphal town as the meeting location with Elise was because I wanted to tell you that.”

——The Spirit-Sword Vierge.

The spirit sword which was said to be wielded by Elline when he went to the Underworld and the Heaven a long time ago. Even though its sheath was destroyed over the three-hundred years, the blade was still filled with a sacred blue light.

“Aren’t weapons like those……”

“Hold on. There’s something wrong outside.”

Kyelse suddenly said that with a strong tone.

“Wrong?”

“……There are several presence……howl and anger……it’s getting closer……really closer……”

The girl opened the window.

At the jet-black night, what the Dragon Princess stared at was the summit of the giant volcano. And then——

“**It’s coming!**”

The exploding crimson flames lightened the town of the blazing cliff at night time.

The dancing flames which blew many sparks.

Right after that, a sound of crumbling which signified something huge had been destroyed from somewhere far echoed.

“W-What was that sound?”

“The town wall which was surrounding the town must have been destroyed. And that wasn’t just one location since I heard a sound of multiple locations being destroyed. A charge of an enormous monster or an attack spell by a Demon.”

The sky which turned red.

The Dragon Princess muttered while she stared at the rooftop of the building which was being stirred up by the sparks.

“A conceited human must have acted rashly by angering the Five Great Disaster.”

“What do you mean!? It was supposed to be tomorrow——”

“One of the party who became blinded by making achievement must have made an assault to the Great Volcano of Galia at night. As a result, they counterattacked by the Five Great Disaster after angering her.”

The entrance to the room.

The one standing there calmly was a blonde Archangel in white robe.

“So then, what shall we do now, Elise?”

“Hmm……I really can’t imagine for the moody Achendia to become angry by simply receiving a surprise attack by a mere party. To begin with, she doesn’t even consider humans as a threat. I’m guessing her henchmen became angry on their own. So maybe she’s watching it from the summit?”

The previous Demon Lord who answered with her usual easy going tone.

“Oh well, should we be quick? Even though it’s a counterattack by her henchmen, there seems to be many of them. Though taking down Achendia would be the quickest way to stop their counterattack.”

The residents' houses which were burning.

The sky during night was tainted in red by having the sparks rise up by the wind.

"The fire already spread this much!?"

"Of course since they are the henchmen of the Demon General of Blaze. Of course it would be spells they would be proficient at. ——Even so, let's get rid of them right away."

Elise who raised her hand.

The spell's design glowed in blue colour. The moment the glowing ice particles which was created in empty space, the flames which was burning in fast pace gets frozen in no time and disappeared by turning into many fragments.

".....That's Elise for you"

"Geez. Humans does turn into daredevils. Didn't your academy tell you not to act so reckless, Ren?"

"Huh? What do you——"

"The ones who stimulated all these Demons and monsters that are rampaging first was most likely five member party's made up of the so-called Ren's seniors we met at noon."

"It can't be!?"

"I'm dead serious."

The former Demon Lord who easily jumped onto a building's rooftop to get a full view of the town.

"Hmm, I see. Approximately two hundred enemies. There are less than ten Demons that is acting as the main force. Majority of the remaining one-hundred ninety enemies are monsters tamed by the Demons."

“Elise, is what you just said true? About the seniors from the academy!”

“More like I was there when it happened. They were heading towards the volcano. You know when I left at night? I bypassed them by a chance.”

“You didn’t stop them?”

“I did. But I’m in this state now. Not only didn’t they hear me out, they just ignored me. Or should I have injured them till they couldn’t move?”

“……No.”

Ren shook his head while biting his teeth hard at the master of the Underworld’s question.

“You warned them right, Elise? Then the ones at fault are my seniors who ignored your warning and the ones who started this first was the humans.”

“I like the sound of that. So you can make proper judgment without treating them special for being the same human as you huh.”

The former Demon Lord nodded with a smile cheerfully.

“Anyway we need to go and stop them. Even if they joined forces they wouldn’t be able to win against Achendia. Then there will only be casualties if we don’t stop them.”

Ren could guess why they headed towards the mountain in a rush.

The Elmekia Dusk’s participation. Since they didn’t see any chances of winning the competition against a large world-level party heads on, so they must have thought they needed to make the first move.

“Kyelse, Fear, Elise——”

To the volcano’s summit.

The moment Ren was about to shout that out, “something” large jumped out from the resident’s house right behind them.”

“A monster!?”

A crimson colour large snake broke through the house’s wall and jumped at them.

——The sword flashed.

The snake powerfully and quickly leaped to the rear due to a sharp strike grazing its face. But it wasn’t Ren who swung the sword.

“High-level Demons and their tamed monsters huh.”

The MASTERKnight who was wearing a black steel battle-wear. His brute strength which allowed him not to twitch his eyes even in front of a giant monster. And his behaviour which came from his confidence.

“Elmekia Dusk?”

“If you are a civilian then evacuate to the auditorium. If you belong to a party then head to the mountain.”

“W-What about you guys!?”

“We split into two troops. The first troop has already headed to hunt the Five Great Disaster. And the remaining troop would concentrate on guarding the town.”

“……Can we leave the guarding of this town to you guys? Didn’t you also come to hunt the Five Great Disaster?”

“Protecting the town was also included in the request.”

The one that gave the answer just now was an ARIACaster who was also wearing the same black battle-wear.

“Majority of this assault is caused by the monsters. High-level Demons are a threat but their numbers are low. So we will oppress them.”

“Having the Elmekia Dusk taking the defence sure is reassuring.”

Fear who smashed a strange bird that came to assault them to the ground with just her fist.

“Though it seems like you have other motives, right? Rather than getting uncertain fame where you might let the Five Great Disaster escape after cornering them, taking the certain fame as a priority which is to protect the town may be better. ……Would that be me thinking too much?”

“……I suggest you move your legs than your brain.”

The MASTERKnight responded with a fearless smile to Fear who was putting on a meaningful smile.

“Many of the parties had already headed to the summit of the volcano. You don’t intend to waste time here after coming this far to the town of the blazing cliff, right?”

“Well, we can’t argue about that. We should get going as well.”

The dark skinned girl made her body float in the air without waiting for others response after she said that. She jumped from rooftop to rooftop of the houses and headed directly towards the trailhead of the volcano.

“Hurry, you too, Ren. We can stop the invasion unless we defeat Achendia.”

“I know. But you are going too fast!”

Ren chased after the three girls who were going ahead very fast while he breathed heavily.

The trailhead of the volcano. The moment he was about to go through the door which had been destroyed by the monsters.

“—! Actually, go without me. I need to go somewhere!”

“Ren!?”

Without even responding back to Kyelse’s shout, Ren turned around on the spot.

——The mansion on fire.

He could hear a weak scream from there.

“Dammit, did someone get left behind!? The place is about to burn down any minute!”

Ren forcefully kicked the burning door.

Ren entered the building while he had the sparks that was flying around burn his skin.

“Where are you!? Hey, you are there, aren’t you!?”

His sight was covered in crimson colour. There wasn’t much time left till the building gets completely burnt.

……Calm down.

……Being able to hear the scream means that person isn’t deep inside the building.

The flames that was burning as if it was dancing. Behind those flames.

“H……elp me……some……one……”

The black haired girl who was on the ground.

Ren saw a girl who was surrounded by flames and smokes who barely had any consciousness left who could just emit a low voice.

“Over there! ……Alright, it’s okay now. You are the only one left behind, right?”

Ren carried the small built girl on his back and tried to go back to the exit of the building.

“The mansion!?”

The burning ceiling crashed down. The path Ren was about to go through just now gets blocked by a wall of giant bricks and flames.

“At a time like this……dammit!”

The path which was blocked by the burning flames. From behind him. And from the surrounding walls, Ren was being cornered by the heat.

Flames in all direction. The escape route got blocked just now.

——*There’s no way to escape to.*

——*At this rate we would burn along with the building.*

The chilling image which passed through his head for a moment.

But at the same time a passionate heat which would erase his chills ran through his whole body.

“……**Like hell I’ll give up!**”

He who was despised as a fake Brave Hero.

He was different from the Brave Hero Elline. A III-Grade MASTERKnight who was far from being that legendary swordsman. Even so, all three of Kyelse the Dragon Princess, Fear the Archangel, and Elise the former Demon Lord invited him to their party despite knowing that.

He wanted live up to their expectations with everything he had——

That instant.

Something triggered inside Ren. And then.

“Can you……hear my voice?”

A voice.

Like a sound of a bell that echoed from far away——

It wasn’t his ears. It was then when a faint voice echoed inside Ren.

“I was waiting……all this time. My voice. Now, it should reach you……”

“!? You are——!?”

A voice he heard for the first time.

But this voice sounded which made him feel nostalgic.

……I.

.....I know who this voice……belongs to since a long time ago?

“Summon language. My aria……”

“You words. Now, it can reach me……”

“……**Yeah. I can hear you. This time for sure**.”

What Ren gripped tightly was the Archangel’s feather as if he was guided by a faint voice.

The white divine tool which glowed brightly.

“That’s why——”

Ancient summoning.

It was said that by hearing the spirit's voice and responding them, the spirits would also respond back to the spellcaster.

"I can't end in a place like this."

—— 『*expressRh/s the door of the worldhec ele Selah*』 ——

The sea of flames that was blocking his path gets split in half.

SALAMANDERAncestral spirit of fire.

The spirit which had been besides Ren as a small spirit of fire descended now in its true form as a crimson lizard with wings.

"I get it now…… You've been trying to talk to me from a long time ago."

Now he could hear it.

"Call me, again. I would be, waiting."

Ren ran through the path of the flames. And it happened at the same time.

The same time as Ren exited the mansion, the mansion collapsed while making a sound.

"Ren!? Good, you are safe."

Kyelse who found Ren and came running to him.

"Sorry, I took a detour. ——Oh, there he is. Hey, take care of this girl!"

Ren carried the girl he had saved and left her in the care of the MASTERKnight of the Elmekia Dusk.

“Y……You are……?”

“I’m glad you are okay. See you then, I’m also in a rush!”

Ren waved his hand to the girl who had her eyes open a bit as he ran.

“Where are Fear and Elise?”

“They are heading to the summit already. Also, I saw several more parties climbing the mountain while you were acting on your own. We are most likely the last ones. Looks like we are late.”

“I said I’m sorry.”

“I didn’t say you were bad.”

Kyelse’s smile who was running elegantly.

“If you didn’t do that, then there would have been a life no once could have saved. Also, we can climb faster for the lost time. With the two of us. Follow me!”

“Alright.”

Ren gripped on his old sword. Ren ran through the path which was leading to the volcano.

The Five Great Disaster. The “Demon General of Blaze” Achendia. They simply ran towards her——

Record.5: It, the Conqueror of Fire——

1

The Great Volcano of Galia.

An active volcano which erupted approximately one-thousand years ago and you could still see gas which poured out from its crater. Even now the ground was covered by pumice stone, volcaniclastic material, from back then when the magma cooled down and solidified.

At the junction of its three paths.

“Elise should have took the right path and Fear should have took the middle path aiming towards the summit.”

“Then we will be taking the left path huh.”

To reach the summit, the junction of the three paths should each connect to three different routes.

The middle path which Fear took should be the shortest, but there would most likely be many Demons guarding it. Predicting that, Elise took the route which would have the longest distance to reach the summit.

Therefore the route Ren would take would be the remaining route which was the left path of the junction of the three paths.

“——We should move fast.”

They climbed through the volcano’s path. Even though they should have reached halfway up the mountain, not encountering the other parties would imply how late they have started.

“Naturally it’s about time the parties that have already advanced up the mountain have started battling the Demons that are serving under Achendia. Don’t lower your guard since we don’t know where a high-level Demon would be lurking.”

“.....Roger that. By the way, do you know the situation of the battle?”

“The parties have mostly been annihilated. The Demons have left their miasma everywhere.”

“It can’t be!?”

“They were weak parties that got lured here by hearing the name of the Five Great Disaster. This would be a natural outcome if this was their first time batting high-level Demons. Though there won’t be a problem since Fear and Elise would be rescuing them.”

Kyelse who climbed up the mountain in a lightly manner as if she was skipping.

“If the parties worked together than they may have been able to put on an even fight.”

“……That’s only if they headed to the mountain together.”

Not only they didn’t work cooperatively, but it turned into a time attack battle where each party would aim for the Five Great Disaster first.

And the one who triggered such situation was none other than five member party formed by those who would be considered as Ren’s seniors. As a result, each party would get taken down by the Five Great Disaster’s henchmen on their own game.

And then——

Without any warning, a circular symbol glowing in crimson-colour appeared on the ground.

“A spell!?”

Ren kicked the ground to evade it.

That moment, flames which was shaped as a giant dragon almost grazed Ren’s back and soared up the sky.

“Huh? He dodged it, Ranaku.”

“That’s a rare sight, isn’t it? Looks like he has good response for a human, Kanaku.”

Two winged Demons which appeared from the sky.

Pale skinned children with a solid, yet, a transparent wings. Despite their adorable appearance which made them appeared like fairies, the expressions on their faces were like carnivores that had found their prey.

“It will be a competition since we can report this to Achendia-sama.”

“Which one of us can——”

“Eyesore.”

The two Demons were blasted away together with their miasma around them by being surrounded by explosion.

“……H-Huh? It ended already?”

“I don’t have time to waste for novice Demons that doesn’t even know who I am. Let’s get going.”

The Dragon Princess started running ahead without waiting for Ren’s response.

“H-Hey? Was it okay to blast them away like that?”

“Dang it. I should have blasted them away after making them spill Achendia’s location.”

“That’s not what I meant! Wouldn’t they also be considered as Elise’s former henchmen?”

The Dragons, the Angels, and the Demons were the three beings representing the earth, the Heaven, and the Underground respectively. If Kyelse who was a Dragon carelessly attacked them, then there would be a possibility for it to hinder the balance of the three worlds.

“The Demons strength lies in their toughness. Just like Elise’s ability to reincarnate.”

“What do you mean?”

“Even if I did “destroy” them here, they won’t be “annihilated”. Either way, the Demons here are a bunch that betrayed the Demon Lord of the Underworld. It won’t be a problem if I lay my hand on them. More importantly, don’t assume it would end with those two. There’s more coming.”

The area where the battle took place between the parties and the Demons. If those two were the scouters——

“What……is this powerful presence? A Dragon!?”

“No, wait. But what is up with this abnormal pressure? It can’t be?”

“That legendary——”

“Just get lost.”

The three Demons that appeared from the ground. But even they were defeated without putting a fight by Kyelse’s turning kick.

“Ah, geez. I can’t stand this! Because of that seal!”

“……Even though you are saying that, that was too easy for you.”

Kyelse who was taking down the Demons as they appeared.

Demons where even one of them would be a threat to the human’s party couldn’t even be a hindrance to her.

And then——

“! Are all of you okay!?”

Ren headed to the party of six that were on the ground in a rush.

Maybe they received a surprise attack by the Demons which Kyelse had just defeated. A party formed by the two MASTERSKnights, the two ARIASCasters,

a HUNTERPredator, and a HEALERCurer. All of them had been burnt and were laying on the ground.

"……Did you two h……help……us……?"

The HEALERCurer girl opened her eyes a bit.

"Your injuries?"

"……It's not a fatal injuries. Even I can heal……injuries of this degree……"

She stood up weakly.

"Go ahead. There were parties which went ahead of us. Elmekia Dusk and a party formed by young people."

"Elmekia Dusk!? So they passed through here!"

"Yes. That party……their strength were on a different level……since they headed for the summit while overcoming high-level Demons."

"Thanks, I was wondering about them."

Ren faced towards Kyelse and nodded at her. They ran up through the path heading towards the summit.

"Ren——"

"I know. The young party that girl mentioned must be my seniors from the academy. I assume they progressed through this route by using anti-Demon barrier since one of them was a ENCHANTERBarrierer."

"But that spell won't work on high-level Demons, you know?"

You could separate the sources of spells used by humans into two major categories.

The destruction-type spells copied from the spells used by the Demons——magic and attack spells would be categorised here.

The protection-type spells copied from the spells used by the Angels——de-spell and defence spells would be categorised here.

Among these two categories, the anti-Demon barrier would be sourced from the Angels' spells.

The effect it had against the Demons would be high, but it was merely an inferior spells used by the humans. It wouldn't work against those high-level Demons with overwhelming power.

"……I thought I already knew this."

Ren realised once again after witnessing the fallen party.

The ones that were able to compete with the Demons, the rulers of the Underworld, were a portion of parties such as the Elmekia Dusk. They were not an opponent a novice parties should challenge in rashness.

——Screams.

It was then when Ren heard familiar screams which came from above.

"We were late……! Senpai!?"

The ARIACaster who barely was conscious while he had his knee on the ground.

The MASTERKnight student who was using his sword to support his body and didn't move an inch. Standing next to him was a ENCHANTERBarrierer girl who was looking at the Demon in front of her with expression filled with fear.

"Ren!?"

The MASTERKnight opened his eyes wide while he breathed heavily.

Without even answering him,

“The aura of your power isn’t bad. You are such are waste to be Achendia’s henchman.”

“This smell, the Heavenly Silver Dragon!”

Kyelse’s punch and the large Demon’s punch. Both fist clashed and created a flash which made your eyes burn. A powerful shock which could even distort space passed through the scene.

“What the……!?”

The silver haired girl who took the attack of a Demon head on.

Seeing such situation, the five academy graduates screamed in shock.

——*Unbelievable.*

——*Such small girl countered the attack of a high-level Demon.*

While everyone had their eyes pop out while such passed through their mind.

“Senpai, behind you!”

Only Ren was staring at a completely different direction.

A dangerous presence which appeared behind them.

A Demon which had an appearance of a lion whose brown colour was its trait. Ren certainly saw the four legged beast stood firmly on the ground while it lit a crimson glow in its mouth.

“Senpai, watch out!”

“Ren!? Stop, you will——”

Kyelse’s shout which could be heard as a scream. The instant the boy who was called the fake Brave Hero pushed away the ENCHANTERBarrierer girl. He had his body enveloped by the crimson flames.

“Re————”

“Thanks. You saved me again.”

But the crimson flames was compressed in the empty air.

There was one boy who stood calmly right after the burning flames turned into small sparks.

While he had a spirit which was glowing brilliantly sat on his right shoulder.

“The SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire!? Ren, when on earth did you master it!?”

“Ancient summoning! You are telling me there is a human who can command the spirits exists in this era!?”

The Demon which had the appearance of a lion shivered.

Ren used that slight opening to mow down the lion’s body as he passed by it.

“……Splendid……”

The Demon which had the appearance of a lion disappeared like shimmer of hot air.

Besides it, another Demon which was defeated by Kyelse perished.

“Ren, what’s going on!? Since when did you become capable of using spirit summoning!?”

“Ouch, it hurts! Rather, my eyes are spinning! Calm down!”

Ren had his collar grabbed by Kyelse and was being shaken around by her.

“That proves how much Fear-senpai’s divine tool is amazing.”

“But……even so……no, let’s leave it for now. Though it was beyond what I expected——”

The spirit which had an appearance of a winged lizard.

The SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire which looked like a small red Dragon disappeared. Kyelse who saw that turned around to Ren where she looked happy.

“That was a great job coming from you. There isn’t much distance left till we reach the summit so we will keep on going while taking down the enemies immediately.”

“Yeah.”

Kyelse who advanced ten metres ahead with a single step.

Ren ran while he followed after her.

At the mountain path where it had become silent——

The party of five members was watching such scenery in daze.

==========

Near the crater of the Great Volcano of Galia.

“Looks like this is it for you.”

“Achendia the Demon General of Blaze. The great Demon who was even called a Five Great Disaster. We would never have thought you would flee while leaving your henchmen behind. Looks like the name of the legendary Demon had fallen.”

The five humans that were wearing black battle wear.

The Elmekia Dusk——. They were the only ones who managed to arrive to the summit while the other parties were defeated one after another by the Demons that came in their way as they aimed for the volcano’s summit.

“Pretty skilled there. I never have thought all of you would catch up to me by using tracepursuit spells.

The great Demon stood there calmly while she had a smile on her face as she had the crater boiled out magma behind her.

——Demon General of Blaze, Achendia.

Her crimson hair which looked like scorched heat was possessed in it. And her golden-coloured eyes which made her appeared like a female leopard.

Simply her appearance was that of a fascinating woman.

Her appearance was that of a woman in her mid-twenties. Though the dress she was wearing had a brilliant red colour, she was equipped with an unknown precious metal on her wrists and neck.

“Now then. What shall I do?”

Behind her was a precipitous cliff. If she stepped in a wrong place she would fall into the boiling magma. Even though she was in a situation where she was cornered, the Demon General of Blaze didn’t get rid of her confident smile.

“We warn you. If you don’t want to suffer then leave this mountain immediately.”

“Oh? Is that supposed to be some human’s joke?”

The great Demon who had her golden eyes fearlessly glowed.

“So you are saying you would fight us?”

“Such dummies. I wasn’t talking about that. What I was wondering was—— should Mii reveal myself.”

The spouted flames enveloped around the Demon General.

“……What!? Who are you?”

“Hello there. I think your party was called the Elmekia Dusk, wasn’t it? Anyways, good job.”

The white haired little girl who sat on the giant orb which was floating in the air.

“One of the Three Followers of the Demon General of Blaze Achendia-sama, Mii of the “Imitation”. Let’s get along.”

“A fake! Then where is the real Five Great Disaster——”

The Demon answered with an innocent chuckle.

“Achendia-sama was also bored so she could have played with all of you. But an interesting bunch who would entertain us even more showed up exactly then. So we needed the pests to be removed.”

“An interesting bunch?”

“Yup. Mii was also shocked. I would never have thought there would be a reincarnation of the legend from three-hundred years ago.”

“……Your words don’t make any sense. But we simply need to breakthrough you and reach the Demon General of Blaze.”

The party of five humans in black attire.

Each and one of them were professional MASTERSKnights, as well as being ARIASCasters and ENCHANTERSBarrierers.

“Terrific. It’s been a while since I met humans that are worth the fight.”

She sat on a pearl-coloured orb.

Mii of the “Imitation” who was opposing the Elmekia Dusk said it with a chilling smile.

“I will play with the all of you on the behalf of Achendia-sama. Shall we start then?”

2

The Great Volcano of Galia, the summit of the third route――

“This was unexpected.”

That was the first thing Kyelse said to the Demon standing in front of her.

“I thought more of your so-called trusted retainers would be waiting for us but you came all the way here to meet us?”

“It’s called special treatment. After all, it had been awhile since we last met.”

The one who answered was a crimson Demon who was the highest-class Demon.

The Demon General of Blaze, Achendia. She had her crimson hair blow behind her and didn’t lose her smile despite Kyelse glared at her.

“Has it been three-hundred and five years ago since we last met? But I’m surprised. It seems like the former Demon Lord-sama and the strongest Archangel in Heaven is with you as well. I can’t believe it. If Elline was also alive, then it would have been the reincarnation of the legendary party.”

“……Elline isn’t here anymore. He was a human. So he had lifespan.”

“Then is that boy over there his reincarnation of Elline? He resembles him so much.”

The Five Great Disaster’s gaze moved to Ren.

The golden-eyes like that of a female leopard. She was looking at him. Ren couldn’t help but feel cold sweats pouring from his back like waterfalls by simply that.

――*She’s different.*

The presence of the Demon in front of me is in a different league to the Demons I have encountered till now.

Even Ren who simply stood in front of her could realise that. She looked like a human with a quick look. But the miasma and pressure which poured from her body was completely different to the other Demons.

“So? Are you?”

“You should know the answer already. You don’t even think I’m Elline’s reincarnation.”

Ren held his chills and answered by keeping his tone down.

“Heh? I like it. You are kind of humans who knows his place.”

“……There’s one thing I want to ask.”

Ren looked straight at the Demon with such overwhelming presence.

“You were a Demon General who was previously the subordinate of Elise, right? I heard that you rebelled because Elise resigned from her post as a Demon Lord and didn’t like the current Demon-Lord.”

“Hmm? Well, I guess you aren’t far off.”

“Then couldn’t you just remain as Elise, the former Demon Lord’s, subordinate instead of the current Demon Lord? Elise was having trouble since her body turned into that state. Didn’t you think of helping her?”

“That’s out of the question.”

That became the final verdict of a Demon who was once the candidate to become a Demon Lord.

“To be honest, the current Elise doesn’t appeal to me at all. Especially as someone who once knew of her beauty, strength, and brutality. More importantly, don’t you think there isn’t any reason for me to obey someone who is weaker than me?”

The highest-class Demon whose strength even surpassed that of a current Demon Lord.

That was the declaration of war from the legendary Demon who was called the personification of blaze.

“Though meeting Elise would be the last entertainment for me. Until then, don’t you think it will be troublesome if I don’t crush you two and Fear till then? All of you also want to defeat me in order to protect the human’s town, right? So why don’t we get started now.”

“Ren, step aside!”

Kyelse jumped the same time as she shouted.

On the other hand the Demon General of Blaze jumped to the rear towards the slope of the mountain while she made phantoms of herself.

The phantoms of the Demon General. All of the phantoms moved at the same time and spoke.

“This is so saddening.”

“For that invincible and unequalled Dragon.”

“Maybe it was due to that seal.”

“You don’t even have a trace left from back then.”

The crimson detonation——the scattered current of thermal expansion created by the spells of the four phantoms turned into shockwaves that burned the huge rocks and demolished them.

“Just be quiet.”

Kyelse’s power of language.

The scattered blast swiftly turned into pleasant spring breeze.

It must had been a spell to intervene with the energies and fluids within wide-range. But it was in a level where a human like Ren possibly couldn't understand the constitution of the spell even though he saw it up-close.

"Split."

Kyelse's raised feet stepped on the ground. That instant, a shock ran through the Great Volcano of Galia like a rumble caused by a huge Dragon that had landed on the mountain.

The lifted pebbles and hundreds and thousands of small rocks headed towards the Five Great Disaster.

Every one of the rocks had the power and velocity of an arrow or even bullets. Even getting hit by one of them would cause fatal damage. But——

"This isn't like you. A cunning fighting-style like that isn't something a Dragon would do."

They perished before touching the Five Great Disasters.

Miasma——a garment of curses which high-level Demons has around them. Metal objects would turn into rusts. And mere objects such as pebbles would be disassembled in instant.

"You realise it, don't you? In your current state you can't——"

"That's enough talk."

The Princess of Dragons approached right in front of the Demon General. The many pebbles from before was for deceptive means. A trap used to deceive the eyes of the real Achendia and her four phantoms at the same time.

"It's so obvious. And sadly, in your current state you won't overcome my miasma——"

"Fall to the depth of the realm of the dead."

……Shook.

The air shook. The punch created by Kyelse pierced through Achendia's activated miasma and nailed her in the stomach.

"Who do you think I am?"

"!? ……k-ka……!?"

The Five Great Disaster held her enormous breast and couldn't hide her pain.

Barrier breaker. Body destroyer. And the spell intervener. The punch which has those three different high-level spells reached the Demon General of Blaze.

"……Splendid. To be expected from the legendary Dragon Princess Kyelse. I guess that was roughly between thirty to forty percent of the strength of your prime. And that was while being in a human's appearance. **Won't you return to that beautiful Dragon?**"

"That isn't your concern."

Kyelse approached her simply.

Seeing the silver haired girl doing that, the crimson haired Demon simply put on a cold smile and——

"I see. So you can't transform back, can you?"

"……"

"That's too bad. If you could, then you would have been able to fight me with even the half of your strength."

"What?"

"The cause of your lost would be that there hasn't been much days since you woke up."

The real Achendia. And the four phantoms.

The purple-coloured spell-circle which appeared below the feet of the five bodies of the legendary Demon. Strange barrier made up of many complex spell-circles, symbols, and pentagram.

“Anti-Dragon element barrier!?”

“You should have realised by the time I summoned four phantoms. I pity you since your senses was still dull due to three-hundred years of being sealed.”

The light made from the barrier wrapped around Kyelse as if it restrained her——

“Kyelse!?”

“Don’t come, R————gu……aaah……!?”

Before Ren could even reach her.

The silver haired girl’s scream echoed where she than felled at the centre of the barrier.

“I already knew you were coming. It’s natural for me to have prepared barriers against you beforehand. I obviously have many anti-Angel barriers set around there against Fear.”

The four phantoms vanished.

The remaining Demon General of Blaze looked down at Kyelse with a bewitching smile.

“What will you do now? Good timing, I was hoping to have a henchman like you.”

“……Like hell……you low rank……”

She said while she had lights from the barrier restrained her to the ground.

She still tried to move despite it. The Dragon Princess bit her teeth hard, got on her four limbs and moved her head up.

“I’m astonished. You can still speak? Hmm, you are dangerous. If I don’t make you powerless completely before Elise and Fear shows up, you might break free from the barrier with some kind of trigger.”

The condensed flames.

She had a spell of intense heat which was burning so much that it made it bright within her palm——

“Anyway, I’ll have myself weaken her moderately.”

“Before that happens, I will have you go down.”

Achendia didn’t realise it.

No. To be precise, she knew Kyelse’s strength that she was too cautious of her. Thus she didn’t pay intention to the human who came behind her.

——The Angel’s feather in Ren’s left hand.

——The same time the divine item glowed, a crimson spirit appeared behind Ren.

“Don’t worry about me SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire, take me down along with her!”

“!? That spirit! Don’t tell me you are trying to intervene with my spell!?”

The fire spell compressed inside Achendia’s palm suddenly swells up in rage. It spiraled around in the empty space where the intense heat of flames surrounded Achendia and Ren.

An instant flash.

“Ren!?”

Kyelse’s scream echoed——

The huge explosion thrusts the sky. Ren and the Demon General of Blaze gets dragged into the blast and thus the both of them fell deep into the abyss of the Great Volcano’s slope.

==========

The Great Volcano of Galia, near the crater of the second route.

The earthquake that shook the slop of the mountain.

The scattered shockwave consecutively passed through to the starting point of the mountain. Many small stones turned into fallen rocks due to the shock and started to roll down the mountain.

At the centre of that——

There was an Archangel and a high-level Demon who were exchanging punches within close-range within the breath distance.

“Destroy!”

Chorus of loud spirits between the two.

Fear bended her body to dodge the punch of a huge high-level Demon which came down at her. She went within his reach and thrusts her fist up from below.

The punch which could drill through the ground.

The punch which could cut through the sky.

Sounds of great destruction which continued to echo. The punch from the Demon created a large crater on the ground and the punch from Fear which hit the air creaked the atmosphere. The two punches created a tornado-like blast.

“You are pretty good. It’s been a while since I had a fight which made my heart race so much.”

The Archangel who had a red face due to excitement and her skirt was gently breezed by the air.

“I shall hear your name.”

“That would be an honour. Archangel Fear, the biggest battle maniac of Heaven who directly served under the Goddess Resflaze.”

The Demon who was wrapped in black and gold armour.

His actual skin turned into a powerful armour like that of an exoskeleton of an insect.

“One of the Three Followers of the Demon General of Blaze Achendia-sama. The Veldred of the “Armament”.”

“That was a well-trained martial arts. The name of your title don’t come from armed equipment but your “martial arts” where it acts as an “equipment” itself. I shall remember that name. ……However.”

The Archangel jumped as if she was dancing.

“It’s regretting but I don’t have the time to be dancing with you.”

“——That was my intention.”

The high-level Demon didn’t even try to dodge Fear’s punch. He crossed his arms. He used the back of his palm which was also the part of his body to take her attack directly.

“The Archangel who is the number two of Heaven. Even though you have weakened, I am still no match for you.”

“Oh my? You know when to give up.”

“Wrong. For that reason I need to buy time and wait for Achendia-sama to arrive.”

“……Oh, that’s what you meant.”

She glared at the Demon who jumped to the rear.

This henchman of Achendia was a martial artist but more than that, he was her royal retainer. The plan where they would concentrate in wasting their strength at their spot so Achendia could later defeat their enemy one after another afterwards.

.....What shall I do now?

……We wanted to avoid fighting Achendia directly in our current state.

Elise, Kyelse, and herself. If two of them among the three joined forces then they wouldn’t lose against a Demon General. Instead, if they were alone, then Achendia would be an opponent who would be extremely difficult to handle.

“Looks like we miscalculated.”

If the four of them including Ren had headed towards the Five Great Disaster together, then such situation wouldn’t have occurred.

But in order to rescue the humans that were defeated by the Demons on their way, they needed to go through the different routes. That was the biggest lost.

“It would be a time attack indeed. Would I join my comrades after defeating you who is concentrated on defending, or would Achendia defeat my comrades first.”

“That’s exactly it. Come. The strongest Archangel in Heaven.”

“No need for you to tell me.”

She crunched her fist very hard.

The blonde Angel jumped ahead while she raised her fist which was had the strongest hardness in the world and was only equaled by the fangs of the Heavenly Silver Dragon.

==========

The Great Volcano of Galia, near the crater of the first route.

Elise who was standing very close to origin of the crater which was boiling out the magma.

The one who was opposing her was——

“Let me think, I think you were Nesica of the “Reflection”. The follower of Achendia.”

“It’s an great honour to have the former Demon Lord-sama remember my name.”

The blonde Demon who held the side of her long skirt and bowed at Elise.

She also had an appearance of a human girl. But what was clearly different was her long ears which was like that of a rabbit and a tail which was covered by fur like that of a fox.

“I think you specialised in reflecting spells? Geez, Achendia sure did pit me with the troublesome one.”

It would have been different if she was pitted against an all-rounder type like Kyelse. But Elise mainly specialised in spells. Just how troublesome an opponent who could reflect spells would be.

“I’m looking forward to it. Just how much my ability would work against the former Demon Lord-sama.”

“……Sure. But bye-bye.”

Elise who clicked her fingers. As if it responded to her click, powerful spell-circle appeared and surrounded the blonde Demon.

“You won’t be able to “reflect” binding barrier, right?”

“——Wrong.”

The smile of a high-level Demon. At the same time, loop of light which was about to restrain Nesica perished.

The barrier itself gets teleported to Elise.

“Wah, I didn’t hear that you could even reflect barrier-type spells!?”

Elise slipped through the loop.

“It would have been different if it was Elise-sama when you were an active Demon Lord. But if it’s a spell activated by you in your current body, then there isn’t any spell from you I can’t reflect it.”

“……Hmm, this really is getting troublesome. I don’t even have the time to spare.”

Elise made a bitter smile while she scratched her head. She lifted her eyes which was burning with curiosity and glared at her opponent with eyes which could be taken as fearless eyes.

“What should I do now?”

“Oh my. You still have that much confidence despite having that spell from earlier reflected? Do you have a final trick up your sleeve?”

“Rather than a final trick, it’s more of a……but this is, no, it can’t be helped. I don’t have any more time to waste anyway.”

The dark-skinned girl who shrugged her shoulder in an exaggerated manner.

The eyes of the girl who was known as the former Demon Lord becomes filled with ominous and cold light which made Nesica who was standing against her feel the chills.

“I really wanted to save this for Achendia.”

“Eh?”

“————————I shall teach you fear which would even make Demons shiver in fear.”

The wind of spell powers suddenly stopped.

The area which had activated spells started to compress and what breezed instead was black wind.

The jet-black miasma which was even colder and chaotic than the black of night. Such wind swirled around Elise’s body as if it was enveloping her. Even the atmosphere around Nesica was tainted in black and continued to spread.

At the centre of that miasma——

One dark-skinned Demon showed up.

“Eh? ……Eh……ah, n-no……it can’t be……”

Nesica’s expression froze in fear. No Demon wouldn’t know her. In the past she used her powerful and unrivalled black miasma to shroud the Underworld with it. The strongest Demon who even had the Five Great Disasters serve under her——

“It’s been awhile since I returned to this appearance.”

The one who said that was a tall dark-skinned Demon.

Her clothing changed to ominous colour and shape due to receiving her miasma. Her tied-up hair was now untied and was continuing to blow due to the powerful and black miasma.

She changed from her small girl's appearance to an appearance of a woman with fascinating body――

"D……Demon Imperial Princess……Eliselis Di Mariablaze-sama……"

"Indeed."

The former Demon Lord looked down to Nesica who was standing in front of her with eyes which didn't have the slightest mercy in them.

"You should be honoured. After all, you would be the first Demon to see me with this appearance ever since I reincarnated ten years ago. I haven't even told Kyelse and Fear about it."

The forbidden spell of the rebirth of the Demon Lord.

She spent ten years to create it after she reincarnated as a small girl. A secret spell which was solely created by Elise. Since it required to consume great amount of spell powers, there was a restriction of being able to use it for only very short time――

"I-It can't be……!? I-I didn't hear that you could.....r-return to your previous form……"

"Fool. Did you really think I would head towards Achendia without any tricks?"

"Ugh……gu, fine……bring it!"

Even though she had to fight the motion of fear which had bind her whole body, Nesica looked up towards the former Demon Lord.

"What's this?"

“Since your original body is that of that small girl, you would require great amount of spell powers to maintain that body! And several mintues at most. Then if I could endure it for several mintues here, your spell power would reach the limit first. There’s no change in Achendia-sama’s victory!”

“Haha, to be expected from Achendia’s retainer. You are smarter than I thought.”

The Demon Imperial Princess who answered with a smile on her face.

“But let me give you a correction. The reason why I didn’t want to waste time wasn’t because I needed to consume enormous amount of spell power to maintain this form.”

“Eh?”

“I am no longer a Demon Lord. I am merely a single Demon who left that position and lost all of my henchmen. But even for someone like me, I still have irreplaceable comrades. They aren’t my henchmen like all of you once were. But comrades who is equal to me. I just want to make it in time for that danger. That’s simply it.”

Those words.

The high-level blonde Demon made an expression as if she couldn’t believe her ears.

“……You have changed. Former Demon Lord-sama.”

“You’re right. I may have. But it doesn’t feel bad. A journey with equal comrades that is.”

She had overwhelming dignity and miasma envelop her body. The charming Demon Imperial Princess walked slowly towards the Demon in front of her.

“And that’s how much I also want to watch over him. The possibility of Ren who is known as the fake Brave Hero.”

3

The Great Volcano of Galia, the midpoint.

At the midpoint of the mountain where there wasn't even the slightest sight of parties and the Demons that would counter them——

"……! ……Ku……looks like…...I overdid it."

Ren used his sword to support his body and stood himself while his whole body had received bruises and cuts.

"Hmm. Ancient summoning. I wonder how many hundreds of years since it has been since I last met a human who can command a spirit. You sure come up with an interesting tactic where you commanded the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire to intervene my flames and made it explode."

The crimson Demon whose tone became lively in joy.

Even though she had been blasted in the same explosion as Ren, she didn't receive anything which you would describe it as wounds.

"You, a human who resemble Elline. I think Kyelse called you Ren earlier."

"——Yeah."

"So, what was your intention? It seemed like you protected Kyelse but what are you planning to do?"

"I was desperate. To be honest, I didn't have the leisure to think anything through."

Ren shook his head.

Seeing Kyelse put in danger right in front of him, the action he suddenly took without even thinking and finding the reason to do so was anyway to have the Demon General of Blaze get away from there at all cost.

"But by having the discussion with the two of us, I now have two things I wanted to say to you."

“What would those be?”

“First. Why did you betray Elise? I don’t care about the current Demon Lord. But Elise……is a good girl. The relation between you and Elise may have been that of a master and her retainer, but still, you two were comrades right? I don’t want to see the two of you fight each other and hurt each other.”

“That sure is an interesting impression you have there, don’t you think?”

“It isn’t interesting since it’s something I experienced myself which was the most painful experience I had.”

He continued to be called the fake Brave Hero during the three years at Holy Fiora Journey Academy.

No one took him seriously. Since he didn’t have friends who would practice swords with him, he continued to swing his swords alone outside while using the empty air as his sparring partner.

——*It’s because I wanted someone to acknowledge me one day.*

——*So I intend to understand very well of what it means to have comrades more than anyone.*

“If I were you……I would never betray such precious comrades no matter what the reason would be. Why can’t you get along with her? It doesn’t matter if Elise is or isn’t a Demon Lord right now. Didn’t she fight till her body was battered three-hundred years ago!?”

Elise who had lost her body in the battle from three-hundred years ago.

She lost her position as a Demon Lord and reincarnating into a younger but weaker body surely wasn’t something she wanted either. However——

“Wasn’t Elise, the Demon Lord, the one who fought alongside all of you who were her trusted retainers!? So don’t just betray her easily like that!”

“……”

The crimson Demon didn't answer.

"……So, what was the second thing you wanted to say?"

"I certainly am no Elline. Yeah, I'm none other than the fake Brave Hero. I don't mind to be called that in the academy, the town of the blazing cliff, and even from a Demon as yourself. ——But!"

Ren gripped his sword harder.

There was one promise he made which passed his mind.

"But don't forget the strong spirit you showed when you protected me and challenged the Wyvern. That is the only requirement I ask from you to form a party with me."

"There is something I also can't give up on. I won't break the promise I made with Kyelse no matter what!"

"Are you going to buy time so you can call the other three here?"

"No way. I don't have time to do that. Your henchmen is doing whatever they like and are rampaging in the town located below this mountain."

The story of the boy who was called the fake Brave Hero.

This was truly the beginning of it.

"I will! Now, right here! I will end this by defeating you!"

"Dummy. If it was Elline from the past it would have been different, but you are merely a human. Know the power difference between us."

The Demon General of Blaze raised her right hand.

Roar!

Cracks were created on the ground where a giant wall of flames blew up so high that you had to look up. Not only did the flames had high temperature which was enough to melt the rocks it touched, but it was also a wide-range spell which covered your whole sight in flames.

“This should be the end for it.”

Torrent of flames which was heading at Ren.

Those flames————was cut in half by the swing of the boy’s sword.

“You stopped my flames for the second time!? ……I see that the spirit is quite fond of you.”

The SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire of fire which was resting on Ren’s right shoulder.

It responded to the sword Ren had swung and intervene with the flames the sword had been swung towards.

“!”

The Five Great Disaster got stirred. Ren used that instant to jump.

The mass of flames which was created by Achendia fell down towards Ren after it spun in mid-air. Ren continued to dodge every one of them. No, there should have been flames which had hit him. But even those flames disappeared, leaving just white smokes as if it had been washed away by water.

——The Archangel’s feather and the former Demon Lord’s jewel.

As well was it a jewel to activate ancient summoning, it could also be used as a defence-barrier which had resistance to varieties of spells. It was the effect of those supports.

“Over there!”

Ren closed the distance with the Demon General who had jumped away and swung his sword slanted from lower angle.

The tip of the sword grazed her.

But the whole body of the crimson Demon disappeared that instant like a mist.

“Mirage!?”

“Correct~. I distorted the layers present in the air with the heat of my flames in order to manipulate the reflective index of light. Since it was a genuine physical phenomenon, I can even confuse those who sensors the spell-power of their opponent……well, you didn’t seem like such skillful person so I was surprised by you so I had to take that measure.”

The charming Demon was smiling from far away.

“Ancient summoning and spirit summoning. Did you train at the Holy-land of Canaan?”

“Of course not.”

The heat of flames which lurked in the surrounding.

Ren wiped away his sweats which was falling down like waterfall and then shook his head.

……This is bad.

……I wanted to settle this with that attack just now.

She was a Demon whom even the current Demon Lord would be frighten with. Ren himself was fully aware just how much power gap there were between the two of them. For that reason he wanted to settle this right away. He wanted to settle it before he revealed the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire as well as the divine tools he was given from Fear and Elise.

“That was unfortunate. Your expression tells me that you wanted to use it while I had my guard down, you know?”

She spoke as if it was an obvious act.

But she didn’t have the slightest expression of looking down at him which she had before.

“You are the same as Kyelse. It was a bit too early for you to fight me.”

The earth which the crimson Demon was standing on started to give red glow slowly.

The stones around her started to melt and fuse. As if it started following after it, the earth around her, the giant rock which was present, and all kinds of objects started to turn red and melt——

“The lava flow!?”

“The temperature is more than 1000 degrees. I guess it would be too hot for a human to bath in.”

That instant, the lava flow which was glowing brilliantly spouted from the ground.

From Achendia who was standing normally in the centre of it, the lava flow came down at Ren who was standing below her eyes where the lava flow came rushing at him powerfully like an avalanche while it devoured everything in its way.

“By the way, flames are the only factor the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire can intervene with. Lava which is made from rocks that were melted by heat cannot be intervened nor cannot be guarded it. What will you do now?”

“So it’s a counter measure against SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire……!”

Ren bit his teeth hard and looked around him.

The bumps of the mountains created from natural cause which was made from the earth and the sand. If the lava was coming from the higher altitude, then evacuating to a higher place would allow Ren to escape from this situation……or could he?

“Dammit, come SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire!”

Ren jumped while he had the spirit obey him.

The lava flow which was coming at him as it blew out flames. It approached so close to him that he could feel the heat from it burn his skin——

“How unfortunate. Maybe you won’t make it?”

Achendia’s words of pity.

At the same time, Ren gripped tightly of the amber he had received from Elise.

“I hope this will work……!”

Ancient summoning to teleport physical objects. The more complicated the spell was, the more powerful the activation substance would be and hence the easier it would be to break the limitation of the distance and quality of the object you would have teleported.

——A huge rock.

A huge rock which Ren had seen far ahead gets summoned between him and the lava flow.

“Are you planning to stop the lava? Dummy, a simple rock like that would get melted as a whole.”

“That’s not what I’m planning to do.”

Ren simply said that and jumped towards the huge rock right in front of him.

……It's obvious that I would only be able to summon that for an instant with my current skill.

……Please make it!

The huge rock was to mold a space for his footing.

Several seconds remained till the summoned rock would disappear. He stepped on the rock within those seconds and jumped once again from the top of the rock. He jumped over the lava flow that was coming at him.

"Good decision. But my lava doesn't just flow————now explode."

Rumbling.

Fragments of lava got shot out to the front. It came flying towards Ren in the same velocity as that of a bullet.

"_____"

Countless of flying pebbles which was burning in intense heat lands on Ren. The boy fell without crying out and had lots of blood spurt from his body.....wasn't what happened since he disappeared from the sight instantly.

"Is that my mirage!?"

"That was your trick. You distorted the air with the heat of your flames in order to create a camouflage by bending the light!"

The boy who rushed right in front of Achendia swung down his sword at her.

——Emission of heatwaves by the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire.

Those flames distorted the air around Ren and created an artificial phantom on the spot.

The flash of the sword.

It was certainly the moment when the strike of Ren's sword had captured the Demon General of Blaze.

"……**Ren-chan.**"

"!?"

Something cold passed through Ren's back with that one word said by the Demon. Ren took a distance without thinking twice.

——The tip of the sword which had rusted.

Right before the tip of the sword touched Achendia's body, the blade made by steel rusted in instance by the high intense heat of miasma which was enveloping and protecting her.

……I was prepared ever since Kyelse told me about it.

……So this is the threat of the miasma which is worn by highest-level Demons.

The protection given to him by the divine tools which he had received from Fear and Elise. He had a faint hope of having his sword protected from her miasma. But the miasma of the Five Great Demon was overwhelmingly ominous.

"Now I get it."

On the other hand, Achendia spoke as if she was talking to herself.

"I'm shocked. It was thanks to the power of the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire that you were able to copy my move by seeing it with your own eyes and it was thanks to Fear's divine tool you were able to summon it. But the judgement you made to actually put that in practice in the very last minute was no doubt your power. …..If that sword was even a bit of a famed sword, I may have received some wound by you."

Her dress which had a small cut.

The Demon who stroke the small cut made by the sword on her breast. By that time not only wasn't there a scratch on her crimson dress, but even the slightest crease was repaired.

"If there was one thing I fear about humans, then that wouldn't be the population of the human species but their growth speed. Rather than being described as learning, it won't be an exaggeration to call it an evolution. You know, with that in mind, Ren-chan? There's one thing I'm sure of."

"……What is it?"

"**In a near future you will become a threat to me. So I will kill you here.**"

The atmosphere suddenly changed.

The glare of the Demon General of Blaze Achendia. Even inside the intense heat of the place due to the heat from the lava, she gave an intense cold feeling which was so cold as if you were thrown into current of an ocean. ——No, this was a simple pressure.

"The forbidden chapter of blaze, the "Crimson World"."

The sky of the night gets tainted in crimson colour which was close to that of a blood.

……A barrier? No, it's Achendia's miasma.

……Has this whole mountain got covered by miasma of Achendia's flames!?

"I, the Demon General of Blaze."

The crimson Demon raised her hand.

"The light, the heat, and the flames are within my control as close as it can eternally be."

The red light which started pouring down.

Those came pouring from the crimson sky of night. There were countless number of lights which poured like intense rain.

The single drop of light—— the moment it touched the tip of his elbow, the fibre was burned away in instant without even flames actually appear and burn it.

“Agh!?”

“The hell fire which would burn away this world. I shall show you what a real spells are.”

The Demon General of Blaze just stood there calmly while she had red lights pour on her.

The rains of light where there were thousands of them.

When the raindrop touched the ground it melted away the stones and when it touched the grove of the trees it turned the whole trees into charcoals. Even though it was pouring like rains it changed its course while it was dropping. There were rains where it dropped vertically even though it was pouring in spirals.

——The spell where the energy of flames all turned into light and heat.

——They returned into flames only when it touched the target till it burns away the target.

“Ku……a……!”

……It isn’t a spell a human can control.

……This is the highest-level Demon. She is indeed a true monster.

The SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire intervened with Achendia’s flames and weakened the flames that were attacking Ren.

On top of that the Archangel's feather and the Demon Lord's jewel which created a powerful and unrivalled protection-barrier to weaken the power of flames even more played a role. But even still, the single drop of light had high intense heat.

Ren didn't even have the will to imagine what would have happened to him if he wasn't protected by both the spirit and the divine tools.

"Even still, it's not over yet!"

Ren swung down his sword even though he was feeling intense pain on his shoulder.

The pouring rains of light with high intense heat. The single drop which could be called a raindrop or even a flash was accurately cut by the sword swung by the boy.

"_____"

The boy didn't stop.

While he was inside the pouring flashes, he concentrated only on the raindrops pouring on him so he could mow them down with the tip of his rusted sword. The blade itself would melt if Ren blocked them with the tip of his sword so the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire intervened with the course of those flames and distorted them.

"Magnificent."

The praise from the crimson Demon which came from the bottom of her heart.

"To only cut the lights pouring on you. Or was that a coincidence?"

"No, I simply had done this training before."

"There's nothing wrong with your training and your hard work."

“Seize the drop of water and a fraction of fire, and strike it down with a single slash instantly.”

……I really need to thank Kyelse.

He who was an outsider at the academy. He couldn’t find classmates who would train with him so his training partner had always been the empty air.

——I have been swinging my sword against the pouring raindrops by following its course when it was raining.

Kyelse was the only one who acknowledged his hard work. Instead she even pushed him to strive even further. That experience now had bear fruit.

“But it was still too early for you to fight me.”

“!?”

“Burst.”

Lights covered his sight.

The next moment the detonations which shook the air attacked Ren.

“——Gah!?”

The rain of lights which poured on him. Those thousands of raindrops, which acted like a very small bombs, all exploded at once and the blast spread everywhere.

The sword fell from Ren’s hand and made a sound when it had hit the ground.

.....This is bad. For an instant, I really lost my consciousness with that impact.

Ren had his knee on the ground by the time he realised it.

“I guess this was your limit after all. Even though you have the appearance of Elline, you are very far from being him.”

The broken sword.

The blade broke due to the impact of the blast. The Demon General of Blaze looked down at the bladeless sword.

“Well, you sure did put up a fight for a human. You did so well that I don’t mind making you my henchmen together with Kyelse. A human who can use ancient summoning is rare after all.”

“……Don’t……mess……with me.”

Ren wiped his cheek which was covered in his blood and sweat.

He gripped tightly of the bladeless sword and glared at Achendia.

“I……can still……stand as you can see.”

“I can’t understand it.”

She had Ren in front of her who had replied to her as such while he breathed heavily.

It was none other than the Demon General of Blaze who tilted her head with eyes filled with wonder.

“Your sword broke and your body is battered. You can’t even completely control the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire which is your trump card. What can you possibly do in this situation? Or are you planning to call out your comrades?”

“Nope.”

“Eh?”

“There’s only one thing I’m thinking of and that is the way to defeat you.”

Ren took a step, despite the fact that he couldn't keep his body balance, and showed a fearless smile.

"I……want to become the member of this party. I want to become the actual comrade of those three."

"When we are fighting, just put your life as the priority."

The Dragon Princess Kyelse, the Archangel Fear, and the former Demon Lord Elise.

And myself who was merely allowed to "join" them. But that isn't it. There won't be any meaning if it stayed like this. The party I am aiming for is——

"I just……want those three to really acknowledge me as their comrade. I want to continue journeying the world with them. That's why I can't lose at a place like this!"

His body which was covered in cuts and burns due to the impact of the blasts.

Even so, the boy who was known as the fake Brave Hero declared it while he had the legendary Demon standing in his way.

"Bring it, Demon General of Blaze. This will be the last battle!"

==========

The Great Volcano of Galia, the summit of the third route——

The faint purple light which came from the top of the mountain was a strange barrier made from variety of different spell-circles, symbols, and the pentagrams.

The anti-Dragon element barrier. The pillar of lights would intervene the more the powerful the Dragon was and would cancel their power.

“Gu……to use……such trick……”

Kyelse bit her teeth hard while she had the pillar of lights restrained her to the ground.

A mere barrier such as this would have been easily destroyed by her in instant without needing to transform back into a Dragon if this was three-hundred years ago.

“……Ren……”

She said that name while she was in pain.

Ren commanded the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire to intervene with Achendia’s spell in order to protect Kyelse——. He fell down to the mountain’s slope along with Achendia from the blast. She possibly couldn’t know how far they had fell but the biggest problem was that too much time had passed since then.

——*She isn’t someone who you could beat alone.*

——*Even Ren should know that.*

“Don’t play with me humans! Why must all of you leave me and hasten your death!”

The three-hundred years of imprisonment being sealed.

She had the Sword Emperor Elline who had reached out to her to die before her——

And if she lost Ren here who she had reached out her hand to——

“I won’t allow it……I certainly don’t want that to happen! I won’t allow it!”

The silver haired girl.

No, the Dragon who was in the form of a human howled.

“Return and reincarnate! I am the Princess of the Dragons. I shall abandon my body of a human once again!”

The magnificent howl. The silver haired girl’s body vibrated for an instant. Then a bright silver-white glow was emitted from her body. It shined the summit of the Great Volcano widely. And then——

“Disappear. Beautifully, and violently.”

The absolute power of words.

It shredded the purple pillar of lights which then disappeared into the empty sky.

The barrier which perished without a trace.

In the centre of it was the silver haired girl who crouched once again and was breathing heavily.

“……Sigh……a……ah……I was able to……return for an……instant……?”

Large number of sweats passed down her cheek and dropped from her chin.

But that only happened for a short time as Kyelse stood up and climbed down the mountain right away.

“Wait for me, Ren……!”

She wouldn’t get lost.

The girl climbed down the mountain path as if she was being guided.

4

The Great Volcano of Galia, the middle point.

At the steady slope of the mountain where there wasn't any sight of either the parties or the henchmen of Achendia that were also Demons like her.

"The last battle? You should know your place."

Crimson miasma appeared from the whole body of the Demon General of Blaze.

The magnificent and absolute power which dyed the night sky of the Great Volcano with its colour. What fell from the sky which was dyed in crimson was numerous flashes which was like a meteor shower.

The small light which had a size of raindrop.

Each drop of light fused with the stones by simply being in contact with it and the turned ground into lava. Simply using the term being burnt by it won't be enough to describe the seriousness of the situation if a person was hit by it. Even so——

"I'm telling you that I won't give up!"

Ren gripped his broken sword which the blade was broken from the middle and sprinted through the battlefield which had red lights pour from above. Right behind him was the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire which was obeying him as it floated above the air.

"Hah!"

He swung his sword against the flash of light which came from high above his head. Even though the tip of his sword was missing, the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire intervened Achendia's spell while it responded to Ren's movement. It moved away the flashes which was pouring above Ren.

……Elise and Fear-senpai.

……And Kyelse. I need to thank all of them.

The former Demon Lord's jewel and the Archangel's feather. Ren wouldn't have been able to summon the SALAMANDERancestral spirit of fire without these

two divine tools and he also wouldn't have been able to endure Achendia's attack either.

And Kyelse.

In reality the attack which Kyelse gave to Achendia in the beginning had left a critical damage to Achendia even till now.

Ren noticed that since Achendia had been putting her hand over her stomach and had been using resurrection spell on herself.

……This would be the only time for me to damage her.

……But what should I do? How would I be able to win against this enemy who is too powerful?

The only weapon he had with him was his broken sword.

The decisive method to attack Achendia which would be the most crucial point still hadn't been found——

That moment.

What passed through Ren's mind was a "certain thing" Kyelse had said to him.

.....*There is a way.*

……There's still one way left.

There was still one possibility left to defeat Achendia even under this hopeless situation.

"_____"

Ren gripped his bladeless sword and sprinted as he gazed at the Demon General of Blaze.

However.

“I’m sorry. It doesn’t necessary mean that the attacks would only come from the sky.”

“……G-Guh!?”

The flash of intense high heat which burnt Ren’s back from right behind him. The lights which came from the sky moved in a complex angle and therefore Ren couldn’t notice the attack coming from behind him as that was his blind spot.

“The spirits are indeed powerful, but they won’t take any action if the summoner doesn’t give them orders. So it means the spirit can only block the lights you are personally aware of.”

“No……since that’s good enough for me!”

Ren still didn’t stop running even though his body was covered in cuts and burns.

“What’s this? That face. You still haven’t given up? But it all ends here. I had more fun than I expected but I still have three individual I need to be more cautious about.”

The Five Great Disaster raised her hand high.

“The red star, fall.”

Meteor. The whole crimson miasma which had dyed the sky red turned into a burning star and came falling in a direction to crush Ren.

“You were entertaining for a human.”

Was the smile the Demon General of Blaze gave her pity or her praise to him?

Rumble!

The red scorching burning star was falling towards the boy. A huge crater was formed on the earth and there were a powerful red molten lave bursting up high from the crater.

——But Ren wasn't located below the falling burning star.

"Falling for the same trap. That isn't like you."

The atmosphere distorted and the appearance of a boy which suddenly appeared.

Ren who held his sword had already approached close to Achendia.

"……It's the mirage from before!?"

"There's only one reason why you lost. I wasn't even a threat in your eyes. You reserved your strength while fighting me and had only been thinking about the fight against Kyelse, Fear-senpai, and Elise."

The boy swung his sword.

But the Five Great Disaster didn't lose her smile even though she saw that.

"And? What will you do with that broken sword? Do you think you can break through my miasma with that sword——"

"No."

The sword fell to the ground while it made a sound.

"!? You discarded your own sword!?"

"You are hundreds of times stronger than me. Then it's obvious how I must win against you."

The golden jewel which he held in his left hand.

The former Demon Lord's jewel. It was the divine tool to activate the ancient summoning and the effect was to summon physical objects. To summon what you were imagining into the designated location.

"**I need to borrow the strength of the one stronger than you. That's simply it.**"

The activation substance which was glowing. Immediately after that——

What Ren held in his hand was a single sword glowing in transparent blue colour.

“That’s the sword which was used to take down the Archangel who was acting tough at the Heaven and the Demon Lord who was acting like a boss at the Underworld.”

——**Spirit Sword Vierge.**

Achendia opened her eyes wide. There was no way that a Five Great Disaster such as her didn’t know. This sword which was used by the Brave Hero was the one used three-hundred years ago to——

“They say that Elline fought Elise using this sword. If it was a sword which worked against the Demon Lord of back then, then it’s natural for it to work against you who was her henchman.”

……Please Elline.

……This one instant will be enough so please lend me your strength!

He wished and made a prayer.

The boy who was called the fake Brave Hero swung the sword of the Brave Hero he held in his hand.

And then——



5

The Great Volcano of Galia, the middle point.

There wasn't any sight of Demons, Achendia's henchmen, nor the parties. Simply the remains of the heatwaves created from the red scorching flames filled the place and the atmosphere was awkwardly quiet.

"Ren! Ren, where are you!? Dammit……Achendia, come out!"

She yelled so loud that she started breathing heavily. Kyelse forgot to wipe her sweat caused by the fatigue of breaking through the barrier and simply kept on running.

……I can feel the remains of Achendia's spells. She must be nearby.

The scars left by the battle between Ren and the Demon General of Blaze.

Kyelse became frustrated as there was scars of great destruction spread in front of her.

She continued to run through the surface of the ground which continued to glow in red even now.

"Kyelse!"

"Fear!? And Elise!?"

The ones who caught up to her from behind was the two other girls that went through the separate routes.

The Archangel and the former Demon Lord.

All of them had close to no wounds. But the expression on each of their faces was filled with tension.

"My apologies. My body was duller than I expected…… You would need to think carefully about staying in a human's academy for a long period. I had a

hard time to remember my battle instincts. And Elise, was it me or did I feel a nostalgic miasma coming from you before?"

"I ended up using an incomplete forbidden technique."

The dark skinned girl who continued to run with a bit of fatigue on her face.

"I only had half of the power of my prime even though I used that much spell-power. So my battle lasted longer since I tried to reserve my power. By the way Kyelse, where is Ren!?"

"Ren is……"

He's fighting because he defended me. Kyelse stopped herself from saying that and continues to run through the roadless volcano mountain. Fear and Elise followed right behind her.

Just how long had she been running while having the wind blow her hair?

What awaited her when she continued to run without a word was——

"Ren!?"

Right after that.

Kyelse, the Archangel, and the Demon Lord witnessed the moment which they would never forget for the rest of their life.

That was——

"It's my win, Achendia."

The boy who had swung the shinning Spirit Sword.

The moment where the boy cut through the ominous miasma and defeated the Demon General of Blaze.

“T-That sword!”

“The Spirit Sword Vierge!? Did he summon Elline’s sword!?”

Elise and Fear who screamed in shock.

“……”

Kyelse had forgotten about the two girls and simply walked silently towards the boy as it became dawn right behind him.

Far behind him was the great crimson Demon who was on her knees in silent without even moving an inch.

“……Ren?”

The faint morning sunlight which appeared from the other side of the horizon.

And the boy who had his back towards the sunlight.

The Demon Lord of Blaze who would be a powerful enemy with absolute strength. She had witnessed the moment when the boy who was called the fake Brave Hero defeat her.

……Words won’t come out from my mouth.

……I…….Are you telling me I was……fascinated by Ren right now?

“Huh? Ah, that’s good. Kyelse, Fear-senpai, Elise, you are all fine.”

The boy turned around slowly.

“……Ren. Achendia, you actually……”

Won against her?

Kyelse was about to say that but she couldn’t speak out as her lips was shivering. She couldn’t even come up with what to say to him so staring at the boy was the best she could do.

“Well, it worked more than I imagined. Make sure you give me a bit of a praise, okay?”

The Brave Hero’s sword which was returning to the triumphal town.

The boy who was known as the fake Brave Hero gave a big smile to Kyelse while he gazed at the sword which was disappearing.

——His body was all covered with wounds and burns.

Kyelse also didn’t know what was in her mind when she saw the boy smiled firmly even though he was in such state.

“……”

However, Kyelse had place her hand slowly onto her chest.

Her heartbeat which started beating fast without realising it.

——It was the first time she felt like this.

The strongest force which was led by the Sword Emperor Elline. It was impossible to lose in battle three-hundred years ago.

But it was different now.

It was different to the sense of security she had when she watched over Elline’s promised victory with composure.

The weak retaliated desperately against the overwhelmingly strong foe while being covered in wounds. To have your chest filled with heat by seeing such individual attain victory at dawn.

It was a feeling Kyelse had experienced for the first time.

“Kyelse?”

“……**Idiot.**”

She approached front of the boy while walking dizzily.

And then, Kyelse embraced the wounded boy gently and placed his head on her chest.

“I was worried. Don’t you ever act on your own again.”

“……”

“This is a promise. Got it?”

The boy nodded silently.

Seeing his response, Kyelse embraced the boy again without saying a word.



6

The Great Volcano of Galia, the middle point——

“Oh well, it can’t be helped. I can’t be motivated to obey the current Demon Lord-sama but I just have to return to Underworld for now, right? I was beaten by Ren-chan after all.”

The Demon General of Blaze who scratched the back of her head with an awkward look.

There wasn’t a single wound on her body which was covered with a crimson dress. The wound she received from the sword wield by Ren was a small bruise which had already been healed.

——Even so, the Five Great Disaster declared her defeat on her own.

“So we are going back to the Underworld? So troublesome. Right, Nesica?”

“I sure wanted to enjoy a bit more of earth which I haven’t visited in a while. Right, Mii?”

“Know your place, Nesica, Mii.”

The Three Followers who stood behind Achendia.

All three of them were high-level Demons that stood in the ways of Fear, Elise, and Elmekia Dusk. The wound they received on those battle still remained strongly. And further behind them were dozens of Demons on standby who are also Achendia’s henchmen and were waiting for her orders.

“I guess I’ll be returning then.”

“Achendia.”

The crimson Demon who turned her back.

The one who called out to her was the dark-skinned girl who was known as the former Demon Lord.

“Are you still bothered about three-hundred years ago?”

“……Yes. It’s hard to understand it. The End War from back then. **Why did you, who was the Demon Lord, sacrificed yourself for me, who was merely your henchman?** You lost your position as a Demon Lord because of it and ended up reincarnating into such young body. I didn’t want to see it. That weaken state of yours.”

Achendia answered her while she sighed.

“Remember this, okay? I won’t acknowledge anyone but you as the Demon Lord who would rule the Underworld. So go and find the spell to return into your original body. I would rather be dead than to serve that weak Demon Lord.”

“……Yeah yeah. I never thought I would have my former henchman worry about me.”

Elise made a bitter smile while she put on an awkward expression.

The response the crimson Demon gave to the former Demon Lord who acted in such way was a silent smile. That smile wasn’t her fearless smile she had till now but a smile which was pure and beautiful——

……Was the real reason why Achendia came to earth was perhaps——

……Not to rebel against the current Demon Lord but to send that message to her?

“Goodbye Ren-chan. Take care of Elise-sama, okay?”

The moment Ren thought such. The Demons including the Five Great Disaster disappeared as if they blended with the morning sunlight.

Interval: **The Moving World**

The territory of supreme metropolitan Elmekia.

The ancient castle of Istalucile, the “heaven mirror hall”——it was a huge room where the floor, the ceiling, and all of the four walls was covered in beautiful shinning mirrors.

The training room for MASTERSKnights.

It was a place for training where they would grasp hold of themselves which would be reflected on the mirror to acquire a more subtle swordsmanship.

——The MASTERSKnights covered in black battle-wear stood at the centre.

He appeared to be around thirty-years old. His short ash-coloured hair which had been trimmed and his black irises. He was tall as he would be a head taller than average adult men and his whole body was trained like steel.

A swordsman with an atmosphere where it felt like the vibe around was the sharpest blade there was by simply “being” there.

“Reporting sir!”

The two MASTERSKnights who rushed in to the spacious hall. Both of them were also the same party members that also wore black battle-wears.

“We have received contact from the town of the blazing cliff Jio. They have confirmed the withdrawal of the Five Great Disaster who had been seizing the Great Volcano of Galia.”

“They defeated her?”

“W-What do you mean by defeat sir?”

“I’m asking whether those troops consisted of lower members actually defeated the Demon General of Blaze.”

The swordsman asked with low voice which had pressure in his words.

“N-No sir……apparently our troops were struggling against her henchmen.”

“_____.”

“H-However! They had reported that they succeeded in the mission to guard the town of the blazing cliff.”

“Of course they did. If they hadn’t I wouldn’t allow them to remain in this knight squad.”

“……Y-Yes sir.”

The two MASTERSKnights nodded their head with a nervous expression.

“Even so. **Which party was the one that defeated the Demon General of Blaze?**”

“M-My apologies. The actual details about the ones that defeated the Five Great Disaster is unknown……”

“No information? You are telling me it was a nameless new party?”

“Elline.”

“What?”

“We haven’t actually confirmed this information but they are saying a boy who has an exact resemblance to the famous Brave Hero had three girls follow him and had defeated the Demon General Achendia……”

“_____.”

“W-What should we do sir? Though we have pushed them to get the exact details.”

“Leave it. Tell the troops at the town of the blazing cliff to return immediately. And there’s no need to find the information about that party of four either.”

“Yes sir.”

The two subordinates saluted respectfully and left the “heaven mirror hall”.

Without even looking at them——

“The Sword Emperor Elline. The strongest swordsman in history who ended the End War.....and someone who resembles him? ……”

The Knight King Zellbright.

The man who was called the strongest man of this era simply muttered that out.

“Was it his reincarnation or was it merely his imposter? But if he is the real thing——”

He made his large sword he was holding with his left hand stand on the floor. The man who stood at the top of “Elmekia Dusk” lifted the side of his mouth.

“Interesting. If he is indeed the reincarnation of the Sword Emperor who was the strongest man in history, then I shall defeat that man. Then I will settle my score with that foolish swordsman, Sword Saint Shion, then I shall indeed become the strongest.”

There was no need for his subordinate to get more details. If he was indeed the real deal, then they will certainly meet in this world where a world scale battle of gaining Encore was happening.

Swordsmen were those who were born with such fate.

“Come. The reincarnation of Brave Hero. I shall wait for you here.”

The Knight King Zellbright.

It wasn't for his ambition or for his honour. It was simply his path to supremacy. That man sought for strength more than others and had his gaze towards a sword which exist very far away.

==========

The holy-land Canaan. The Cathedral, the "room of prayers"——

A place filled with peacefulness. The flow in this room had stopped like an air which had frozen. The place of holiness where every single sound had been erased.

Though there was one girl in golden robe.

"The spirits are making a commotion."

She had her hood cover her face and looked up at the ceiling.

"There was someone else besides me who commanded a spirit? The user of ancient summoning……and Great Volcano of Galia was the location? A person who commanded a spirit showed up on that location where the Five Great Disaster was present?"

"Excuse us, Elies-sama!"

Two women in white robes appeared while making quiet footsteps.

"I believe you already aware then?"

"I am aware that the Demon General of Blaze had retreated. This child had informed me."

What was present in the room of prayers was a whirlwind, which was a prank of the spirit “SYPHancestral spirit of wind”, and the only one in the holy-land of Canaan who was capable of hearing the “voice” was the girl called Elies alone.

“Except, I don’t understand. The ones that defeated the Five Great Disaster wasn’t “Elmekia Dusk”. They spirits are saying it was much more special……a group of four with mysterious powers.”

“Pardon me?”

“Have people investigate it. Get in contact with the town of the blazing cliff to enquire about all of the parties that was made up of four members. There is a chance that there is someone else besides me who is an ANCIENTER“Ancient Caster” among them.”

“An ANCIENTER“Ancient Caster”!? It can’t be! The only one who is currently capable of hearing the voices of the spirits is you, Holy Elies-sama. And the only one closest to you is the Sword Saint Shion-sama.”

“That’s why I’m curious. And, yes. Can you also get in contact with Shion?”

“Yes. But that Sword Saint-sama and his party the “Investigation of the Spirits” are……”

“We don’t know which part of the world they are at, right? This is Shion we are talking about so he’s most likely taking a nap at somewhere such as a sanctuary or a spirit’s habitat. Anyway, please find him.”

“……We will do our best.”

Her subordinates made a beautiful bow and left the room of prayers simply.

She looked them with warming eyes and——

“Shion, you can also feel it, can’t you? These commotions by the spirits. The spirits being startled.”

Holy Elies.

She was the holy woman who rules the party gathered of women with highest-level spellcasters, the “Canaan Pilgrim, the Boat of the Sacred Teaching”. She was also the only ANCIENTER“Ancient Caster” of this world. She then spoke as if she was telling herself.

“It’s not the Five Great Disasters. Something besides them. A mysterious presence is starting to cover the world.”

==========

A nameless sanctuary.

Everywhere you looked, it was covered in green and the cries of the birds. It was a space wrapped in pleasant breeze.

In that location where it had been cut from the tumult of the world——

“Hey, Shion. Apparently the rumoured Five Great Disaster had retreated without any troubles.”

“……”

“Shion. Hey Shion. Wake up already. How long are young going to take a nap for?”

“……Yeah, I’m sorry Karei.”

The Sword Saint lifted his upper body slowly after he had his shoulder shook by the black hair ENCHANTERBarrierer girl.

“Your back. It’s covered with leaves now.”

“Yup. I was sleeping on the grasses after all.”

Innocent. The blond swordsman smiled with a smiling face which could only be described as such.

He appeared to be around twenty years old.

——A swordsman with neutral atmosphere.

His blonde hair which grew to his shoulder flowed like silk. His charming eyes, his handsome face, and his manner of speech. There wasn't even a single factor which would be considered as vulgar in him. And his peaceful atmosphere around him was feminine.

Sword Saint Shion.

Along with the Knight King Zellbright, he was a young swordsman who was also said to be the strongest right now.

"So, were you listening to what I said? It's regarding the Five Great Disaster."

"Yup. She retreated didn't she? I thought it was about time she would. I'm sure she wasn't intending to conquer the earth from the very beginning. I knew she didn't get along with the Demon Lord of the Underworld so she probably came up to earth because she didn't like him."

"If I think about it, you were saying that from the start."

"Though I'm glad. With this the people of the town of the blazing cliff would be relieved."

"Besides, the mission to hunt her down was given to "Elmekia Dusk" as well."

"Yup. Though it would appear that it was a different party which defeated the Five Great Disaster."

"Eh?"

The ENCHANTERBarrierer screamed in shock.

“Surprising, isn’t it? Well, I was also shocked as well.”

The Sword Saint on the other hand made a teasing smile as if he was waiting for her to make such reaction.

“Gabrie told me just before. He received a contact from someone he knows……ouch!”

“You. If you knew it already then you should have told me right away. And likewise for Gabrie. Where did that ARIACaster go?”

“He went to gather information. He went outside since he said he won’t be able to know the situation from here. He said he’s curious about the party which defeated the Five Great Disaster so he went to investigate them.”

“Hmm? I thought you ordered him to. Aren’t you curious about them?”

“I am. But you know, getting along with them without knowing anything about them may be more fun.”

They would definitely meet.

The Sword Saint spoke in a manner as that time would certainly come.

“I can’t wait. The reincarnation of that Brave Hero……”

“Huh? You said something?”

“Nope, just talking to myself. By the way Karei, we will be moving once Gabrie returns. So be prepared.”

“Oh. So the next destination has been chosen then?”

“It’s the place I mentioned before. Except, let’s move a bit faster.”

The blond swordsman stood up. The direction his jade-coloured eyes gazed at was high above his head.

His gaze was as if he was looking at a place not present in this world. Like he wasn't gazing at the present but the future——

"The spirits are scared. Something is trying to appear in this world."

"……The mysterious atmosphere you mentioned before?"

"Yup. The way the spirits are being afraid wasn't normal. **I already have an idea of the location of the Encore.** It may be better if we aim to find the Encore first."

"It's rare to see you active. Did you finally started to want the title of the Brave Hero?"

"That isn't like me. Even if we did find it, we won't tell anyone or report it. I don't want people making a commotion and the Brave Hero Elline probably doesn't want that either."

Shion answered with a bitter smile as he waved his head.

"Except, the information I am seeking for might be recorded in the Encore. I just want to find that out."

"…...Yeah yeah. I know."

Karei nodded while she place her hand on her glamorous hips.

"Then I'll start preparing."

"Thanks."

The swordsman waved his hand to the ENCHANTERBarrierer girl who turned around.

The Sword Saint Shion.

The highest-level swordsman who led the most famous party in the world, the "Investigation of the Spirits", continued to stare at the white clouds above for a bit longer.

Epilogue: The Knight of Reincarnation

The town of the blazing cliff Jio.

At the visitor's room of a large auditorium——

"……Ouch, ouch, ouch!"

"Don't go panicking. Burns like this will only take a day to heal for a Dragon like me."

"Umm, I'm a human-being……"

Ren who took off the bandages wrapped on both his arm and Kyelse who put disinfectant on him by force.

"But, you know……"

"Hmm?"

"No. It's nothing."

I'm glad everyone returned safely. Ren felt shy saying that so he stopped himself from saying that and hid it with a smile.

"But I was shocked. I would have never imagined that you would defeat Achendia just by yourself. Even if you had a spirit support you and even though you got had Elline's sword while her guard was down……"

The Dragon Princess girl shook her head as she tightened the cap for the bottle of disinfectant.

“Well, she didn’t even saw me as a threat for the whole time. She reserved her strength for the whole time since she knew there were strong people left such as you, Fear-senpai, and Elise. I couldn’t even damage her at all with my own sword.”

“Of course. To begin with, the Five Great Disaster are stronger than the current Demon Lord. If you actually won against her would mean you are stronger than the current Demon Lord.”

“T-That’s for sure.”

“Even so——”

Kyelse sat on the chair and took the glass on the table with her hand.

“No matter what the situation you were in, it’s also the truth that you made the Five Great Disaster admit her defeat. I wasn’t shocked simply because she was taking you easily and you fought with unexpected strenuous effort. The reason why she reserved her strength was because she determined you would be opponent who she could defeat with ease while holding back, right?”

To reserve your strength by controlling your spell-power. The Demon General made such judgment that it would have been enough against Ren.

But Ren’s potential power and growth rate surpassed her expectation. That was the reason why Achendia admitted her defeat without revealing all her strength.

“If there was one thing I fear about humans.”

“Then that wouldn’t be the population of the human species but their growth speed.”

“……She certainly said something along those lines.”

“That Demon is very calculative. Or perhaps she thought of the possibility where she would fight you again in the far future. There’s a chance that she determined revealing all her power to you now would be dangerous.”

She might had foresaw it.

Maybe one day this fake Brave Hero would actually reach the height of Elline.

“Well, for me, a rematch against would be a bit……”

“It was just a theory. For awhile——”

Knock.

The sound of a soft knock on the door echoed.

The one who appeared on the other side of the door when Ren opened it was a black-haired girl who looked up at him nervously.

“……E-Excuse me. I was told that you would be here.”

“Are you that girl from back then?”

Right before Ren climbed the Great Volcano. The girl who was left in the burning mansion he had saved from.

“T……Thank you very much. For saving me……”

“……”

“Excuse me?”

“O-Oh, it’s nothing. Anyways, I’m glad you are doing fine.”

The girl bowed at him and ran through the passage.

“What’s wrong? Why the senile face?”

“Yeah……well, it was the first time I saved someone and had been thanked for. So I wasn’t sure whether the “thank you” she said was directed at me for a moment.”

Ren leaned on the wall and replied with a bitter smile.

As if responding to that answer.

“Oh my, it sure is amazing outside! It turned into a carnival outside! More rather, we are being a hot topic throughout the town. As a four-member party who defeated the Five Great Disaster.”

The door opened powerfully and the one who entered the room was Elise.

“Ehehe, I even had people ask me for a handshake when I was walking through the street.”

“……Is that even okay? For a former Demon Lord to act in such lightly manner.”

“It’s fine~. Because I retired already. Well, if I was an active Demon Lord then I would act as such. ——Oh, and about you were talking about just now, Ren.”

“Which one?”

“The discussion about you defeating Achendia. I have good ears so I heard it from the corridors.”

The dark-skinned girl who approached him while skipping.

She gazed at Ren who had her eyes brimming with curiosity.

“Anyway, let’s get along from now. The issue I was concerned about has been dealt with so I will officially be joining the party.”

“……Ah, now I remember. That was the promise.”

To aid her against the Five Great Disaster who had rebelled. That was the condition Elise gave to join the party and find the Encore together with them.

“I’m also looking forward to it, you know? Ren, you weren’t acknowledged by the humans, right?”

“Well, yeah……”

“I’m sure you realised it yesterday but Achendia certainly acknowledged you, Ren. So she realised that you weren’t just a lookalike of Elline.”

Elise said it while pouring hot milk which she was very fond of.

“Obviously you would need more time and effort to reach the true strength of the Five Great Disasters. But one day in a far future, Ren, you may become stronger than the Five Great Disasters and the Demon Lord……no, maybe you will become stronger than all of us and really reach the strength of Elline. Right, Kyelse?”

“You are being too hasty.”

Kyelse said it while drinking a sips of her apple juice.

“Though we would be troubled if you don’t reach his strength one day. I would be the one training you. So you need to become strong enough to overwhelm the Five Great Disasters, the Demon Lord, and the Goddess of Heaven soon. You would need to accomplish it within three months.”

“……Whose being hasty now?”

“Now now.”

The moment Ren sighed, the one who entered the room last was the blonde girl.

“I have made my return now.”

“It took you time. Weren’t you just supposed to report the defeat of Achendia at the sanctuary of this town?”

“Yes, that’s the issue Kyelse. It’s the issue about being hasty.”

Fear chuckled and smiled. What she had under her arm was——

“An article?”

“It’s the newspaper extra. It was given out through the town for free of charge. Don’t you reckon the ones being hasty are these people?”

The two-sided article she gave to them. Ren, Kyelse, and Elise looked at each other when they read through the content.

——The boy who may be the reincarnation of Elline and the three lovely girls.

——The party, the “Knight of Reincarnation” defeated the Five Great Disaster.

“The parties gathered in this town of blazing cliff would scatter throughout the world once again to find the Encore. And the “Elmekia Dusk” would most likely give their report about us at the supreme metropolitan.”

“……So the information on this article is known throughout the world now?”

He was more embarrassed then being happy about it.

And more than that, the content of the article was so exaggerated which made him turn red.

“More importantly, Fear-senpai, what’s this the “Knight of Reincarnation”?”

“Do you remember we registered our name as anonymous? It won’t look good if it was put on the article so the news agent made up this name on their own.”

The blonde Archangel who showed a rare sight of putting on a bitter smile.

“So it means “the reincarnation party of the Elline Sword Emperor Brigade” was what was important to them.”

“Woah. That’s too much for an exaggeration……”

Regarding Ren, they drew portrait of him which was probably that of Elline. The three girls on the other hand had detailed information given from the witnesses which was put on the article.

The party name and the exaggerated comments. There was no way the world wouldn't give their attention to them.

"……This is a bit——"

"Let them say what they want."

Elise said it in a lightly manner while drinking her hot milk.

Instead it seemed like she was enjoying this situation.

"No one would actually think that you are Elline's reincarnation. Even the three girls they mentioned here. They would never guess that we are the actual ones. Except, it would have to do with the fact that it was a good coincidence for them."

"But that's also, you know…… Like being used in order for them to make hot topics."

"Then we simply need to teach them. Let's prove it to the world by finding the Encore before everyone, the whole world, and the other parties."

The one who gave such answer was——

Kyelse who was standing near the window of the visitor's room by herself.

The Princess who stood at the top of all Dragons.

While she had the breeze blow her hair back, the girl smiled quietly.

"Let's prove to them that we are the ENCORE"reincarnation" of the Brave Hero who saved the world in the past."



Afterword

Nice to meet you. My name is Kei Sazane.

I had barely been writing the plot of light novel till now, but I received an offer from MF Bunko J where I was able to have my debut here. Since I'm basically a newbie under this label, my days are filled with myself under tension consecutively while I am able to carry a sense of joy writing a book.

Now then, what this book is about—

The meeting between a student knight and a Dragon-girl that appeared in a legend. The strongest Archangel in Heaven and the previous Demon-Lord of the Underworld also joined them. A story about journeying throughout the world to search for the the most valuable asset called the "Encore" which is even included in the title of this book.

The outlook of the world in massive scale. Battling enemies that would be powerful (too powerful). And more importantly, I am planning to write about an adorable relationship between the boy who is the main character and the Dragon-girl while having fun doing so for each volume.

I'm hoping it would turn out into such high-fantasy genre.

Now for my thanks related to this book— First I would like to thank each and one of the people in the editorial department of MF Bunko J. Especially the editor-in-chief and N-sama who is the editor-in-charge. I thank both of you very much.

To Haruaki Fuyuno-sensei who made this book shine by drawing an insanely beautiful illustrations for this book. My hands shook so much on its own especially when I saw the perfection of Kyelse's design.

Lastly, and importantly, I thank all of you who had purchased this book.

I thank all of you so much. I will do my best to make this into a good series even by a bit. It would be fortunate if all of you would continue supporting me from now on as well.

And now, for the advance notice—

I am aiming to have the “Sekai no Owari no Encore” volume 2 be published in October.

Also, I would like to make a certain announcement under this opportunity.

The truth is, the Fujimi Shobo label which is under the same KADOKAWA Company, I have also recently started a new series called “S.I.R.E.N”. This is also a new series where the second volume had just been published. So during the time until “Encore” volume 2 gets published, it would be fortunate if all of you check this series as well if it caught your interest.

……While I made such notice, the afterword had neared the end.

Now then, let’s meet in October (roughly).

I hope we meet again at volume 2 of “Sekai no Owari no Encore”.

June 2014. Kei Sazane.